

S. 978.6  
B86p  
1977

PLEASE RETURN  
IN CONGRESS, JUN 4, 1776.

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

JAN 31 1978

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY  
920 E. Lyndale Ave.  
Helena, Montana 59601

# The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. — We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government; and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. — He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. — He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. — He has refused to assent to other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only. — He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures. — He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people. — He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within. — He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Law for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. — He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing judiciary powers. — He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. — He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance. — He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our Legislatures. — He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. — He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: — For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: — For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: — For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: — For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by jury: — For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences. — For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary government and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies: — For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Government: — For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with powers to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever. — He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us. — He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people. — He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy hardly paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation. — He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against our Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands. — He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people. Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of magnanimity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends. — We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.


**Bicentennial Perspectives**  
**Montana's Involvement in The American Revolution Bicentennial**  
edited by John Barrett

John Hancock  
Samuel Chase  
Wm. Paca  
Thos. Stone  
Carter Goodell  
George Washington  
Thos. Mifflin  
John Adams  
Benjamin Franklin  
John Jay  
James Wilson  
George Mason  
Patrick Henry  
Richard B. Lee  
John Adams  
John Jay  
James Wilson  
George Mason  
Patrick Henry  
Richard B. Lee  
John Adams  
John Jay  
James Wilson  
George Mason  
Patrick Henry  
Richard B. Lee

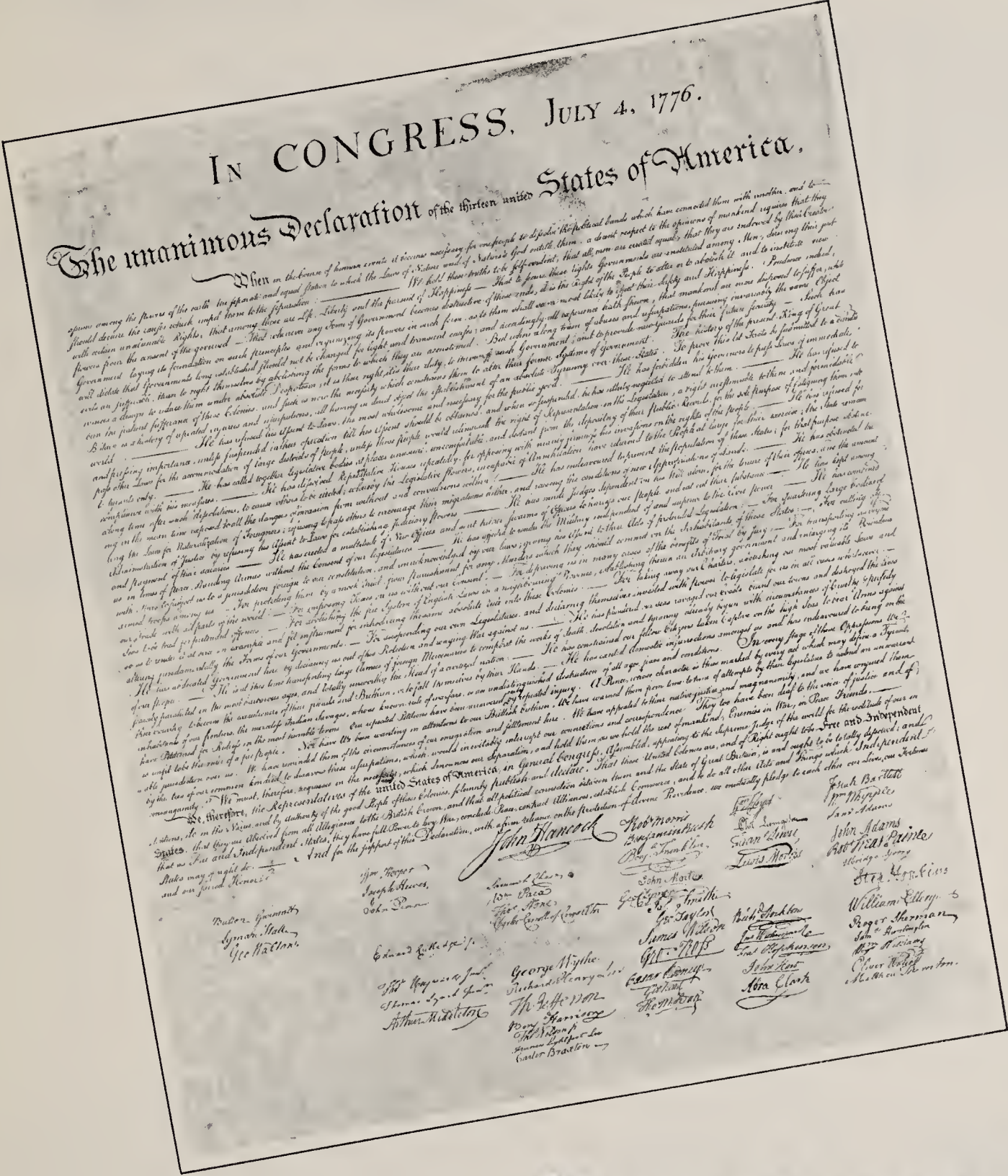
Butler, Gwinnett  
Lyman Hall  
Geo. Walton  
John Hooper  
Joseph Hewes  
John Penn  
Edward Rutledge  
Thos. Heyward  
Thomas Lynch  
Arthur Middleton  
Wm. Harrison  
Thos. Nelson Jr  
Francis Lightfoot Lee  
Carter Braxton

Josiah Bartlett  
Wm. Whipple  
Sam. Adams  
John Adams  
Rufus Putnam  
Elbridge Gerry  
Step. Hopkins  
William Ellery  
Roger Sherman  
John Huntington  
M<sup>rs</sup> Williams  
Oliver Wolcott  
Abolthaw



**MONTANA STATE LIBRARY**  
S 978.6 B8bp c.1 Barrett  
Bicentennial perspectives :Montana's inv  
  
3 0864 00025030 1

Declaration of Independence



Bicentennial Perspectives

Montana's Involvement in The American Revolution Bicentennial

edited by John Barrett

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page .....	i
Table of Contents .....	ii
Letter from John Barrett .....	1
Letter from Ted Schwinden .....	2
Letter from Dorothy Aasheim .....	3
Preface .....	4
Origins of the Bicentennial .....	5
The Montana Bicentennial Administration .....	7
The Bicentennial Advisory Council .....	8
National Bicentennial Communities .....	9
MBA Grants Program .....	11
Projects Receiving MBA Grant Funds .....	13
Color Album .....	50
MBA Official Commemorative Items .....	56
Projects of National Significance .....	57
Projects of Statewide Significance .....	58
Local Projects .....	60
Bicentennial Activities by County .....	61
"A Look Back" by Hal Stearns .....	94
Statewide Project Selection Commission .....	99
BIMONT Computerized Calendar System .....	101
Native American Involvement .....	102

This Final Report on Montana's involvement in the nation's Bicentennial was written, edited and designed by John Barrett, former Administrator of the Montana Bicentennial Administration. The contents of the book were researched from materials and information supplied to the State of Montana by the individual Counties and Indian Reservations within the State.

This publication was printed in November of 1977 and paid for by a grant from the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington, D.C.



# Montana Bicentennial Administration

Box 1776 ★ Capitol Station  
Helena, Mt. 59601

TELEPHONE: (406) 449-3884



JOHN S. BARRETT  
Director

PAUL A. McCANN  
Deputy Director

JORGE P. URIBE  
Project  
Coordinator

GERRI REEVES  
Administrative  
Assistant

November 1, 1977

Dear Governor Judge:

Established by Executive Order in 1973, the Montana Bicentennial Administration was charged with planning, developing and coordinating the state's participation in the commemoration of the American Revolution.

As past Administrator of the Montana Bicentennial Administration, I am proud and pleased to transmit to you this final report on Montana's involvement, which documents the activities and projects carried out over the past three and a half years in fulfillment of that responsibility.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in Montana's commemoration of the national anniversary. The Montana Bicentennial Administration and our Advisory Council, as well as the thousands of local planners and volunteers across the state, were committed to more than just a "backward glance" at our history. Each of us was committed to a meaningful and realistic approach to the challenge of our nation's third century.

I would like to commend you personally for your support of the efforts of the Bicentennial and your abundant participation in the activities sponsored by the myriad volunteers across the state. Your vision and enthusiasm certainly sparked our commemoration.

I would also like to commend the Montana Bicentennial Advisory Council members who served faithfully under the leadership of Ted Schwinden and Dorothy Aasheim, as well as the numerous state and local officials, local planners, and especially the generous people of this great state of Montana for helping to ignite a memorable celebration.

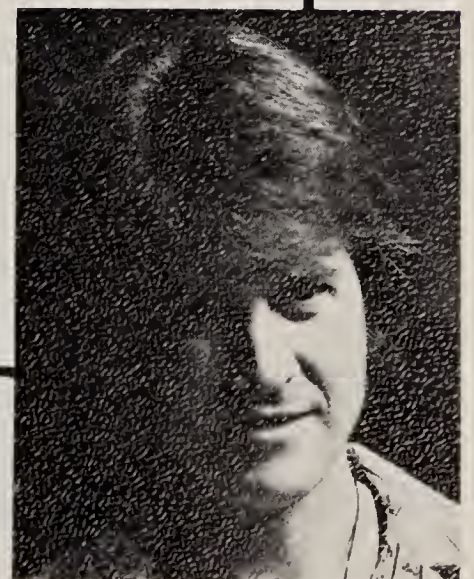
Sincerely,

John Barrett

AMERICAN REVOLUTION



BICENTENNIAL







TED SCHWINDEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Montana  
Office of The Lieutenant Governor  
Helena 59601

November 1, 1977

Dear Friends of the Bicentennial:

In 1776, when an undernourished 13-state youngster of a nation clamoured that it was beginning its history, Montana wasn't even thought of yet -- didn't, in fact, exist except as a place, a far reaching of mysterious plain and prairie and mountain, a freedom of buffalo, Blackfeet and Crow.

1876 was the 100th birthday of a lusty country flexing its muscles and feeling its oats -- and Montana was a territory that sent word of Custer's death on the Little Bighorn to spoil the Centennial spirit with shocked disbelief and a slap for Manifest Destiny.

In the Bicentennial Year of 1976, Montana had caught up, had capsuled the 200-year history of a big and prospering nation into 87 years as a big and prospering state. And Montanans joined the rest of America in celebrating what no group of people had ever celebrated before -- 200 continuous years of liberty created and assured by a government run by amateurs.

It was a great privilege to serve the citizens of Montana as Chairman of the Montana Bicentennial Advisory Council, and a pleasure to work with the imaginative and dedicated members of the Council. I believe Montanans, who made Montana a leading state in Bicentennial projects, proved that the spirit of the forefathers of this nation and the pioneers of this state is not only alive, but thriving.

It is our proud duty to keep it that way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Schwinden".

TED SCHWINDEN  
Lieutenant Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER





*Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee*  
P. O. Box 547 — Bozeman, MT 59715

November 1, 1977

The Bicentennial was a time for reflecting on the past, celebrating the present and looking forward to the future. Americans celebrated our Nation's 200th Birthday in a variety of ways -- some chose to be actively involved in their County, State or at the National level -- others preferred to be onlookers or commemorate this event in their own private way -- we all made our choice. For myself, the Bicentennial became "a way of life" since I was afforded the opportunity of being a part of the Montana Bicentennial Advisory Council and the Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee.

Young, old and middle aged all had the chance to express themselves and be heard-- any project, regardless of size, had merit in being considered as part of the celebration for our Nation's birthday. Projects of lasting importance were planned and developed, one time celebrations were held, opportunities to study about historical events and the forming of lasting friendships all evolved from the involvement in the Bicentennial.

One of the most significant results of the Bicentennial to me was the greater appreciation that people seemed to have for our Country. Through this appreciation hopefully Americans will have even more pride in our Country and help make it even a better place for all future generations -- this would be a lasting tribute to the Bicentennial.

Dorothy L. Aasheim  
Chairperson, Montana Bicentennial  
Advisory Council  
Chairperson, Gallatin County Bicentennial  
Committee







## PREFACE

ARBA grant 76-19-7469 calls for the publication of a final report on Montana's involvement in the celebration of America's Bicentennial.

There are, however, several other compelling reasons for producing a comprehensive account of Montana's role in the nation's 200th Anniversary. First, the report should serve to assist Montanans who in the future will prepare analogous programs, such as the statehood centennial observance in 1989. Those who plan these similar observations may draw valuable lessons from this book.

Second, thousands of Montanans contributed their energy, skills and time to the Bicentennial commemoration. They deserve full recognition for their projects.

Third, a detailed report can document the many diversified and substantive Bicentennial accomplishments so that future generations may realize what the celebration achieved.

Thus, the final report is more than a listing of MBA activities: It is, rather, a history of the Bicentennial observance in Montana. This book is dedicated to Montana's Bicentennial workers, whose community spirit and selfless devotion to the idea of the Bicentennial were a constant source of awe and inspiration.



# ORIGINS OF THE BICENTENNIAL



Amid growing controversy over America's involvement in the seemingly interminable Vietnamese civil war, Congress enacted and President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation on July 4, 1966, that created the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission "to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the American Revolution Bicentennial." The newly established commission was given the challenging task of formulating specific plans for a national celebration and presenting a report to the President by 1968. Possessing neither funds nor direction, however, the embryonic organization accomplished little before the end of Johnson's troubled administration.

After some delay President Richard Nixon revived the commission. Stanford University Chancellor J. E. Wallace Sterling was appointed chairman and under his leadership progress began. Goals and priorities were hammered out in numerous committee meetings and by July 4, 1970, Sterling was able to present a final report to the President.

The report delineated three guidelines for the Bicentennial celebration: It would involve the entire country; it would continue to 1987 with the focal year 1976—climaxing on July 4 of the latter year; and it would "be a time for Americans to review and reaffirm the basic principles on which the nation was founded." Of greater significance in the actual planning were the commission enumerated themes of Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. Representing the past, present, and future, the three concepts were to be used later by state commissions and local groups in developing programs and events.

ARBC established ten regional offices, assisted forty-six state and territorial Bicentennial Commissions to establish functioning organizations, and adopted an official Bicentennial symbol. In February 1972, Congress enacted a bill authorizing a grants program that would provide \$45,000 annually to each state and territorial commission. Additional revenue was generated by royalty earnings from various ARBC programs, and eventually the commission was able to distribute over \$500,000 to each of the states. But ARBC accomplished little else of substance. In the summer of 1972, critics charged that the agency, led by a 49-member board of directors, had failed to develop any programs or ideas of lasting value and that it was embroiled in politics. So Congress abolished the unpopular agency in 1974 and at the same time passed presidentially supported legislation that established the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

The new agency was created to oversee federal involvement in the Bicentennial and to encourage citizen participation. Some critics continued to charge that it failed to provide direction from Washington. But the American public had expressed a desire to make the Bicentennial a grassroots effort. They wanted only financial support and information from the federal administration. Belatedly, ARBA made some recovery from its earlier troubles, and it did disseminate information to the states and launched or accelerated many state programs.

In fairness to ARBA, some people looked for far too much from the national Bicentennial effort, including major social reforms, urban renewal programs, and solutions to transportation problems, among others. They were hardly the kinds of problems that could be resolved in a few short years with meager funding. In the Bicentennial's waning months ARBA did encourage programs that included intellectual content, minority participation, and provided for community improvements. The grants program gave an impetus to the state organizations, while the Bicentennial Communities recognition program, the Johnny Horizons effort, and other programs stimulated volunteers to make community and social improvements.

ARBA presided over a truly glorious Fourth of July, 1976, in which for a weekend American forgot their problems and enjoyed a peaceful and traditional festival of celebration. The dignified, tranquil, and impressive events that took place on that day were hailed by many as a catharsis for the decade of troubles that had beset America between 1966 and 1976. And if the Bicentennial era—with its appropriate climax in the summer of 1976—contributed to a renewed commitment and resolve on the part of all Americans, then it will have achieved more than could have been expected.

Shortly after that signal date, ARBA began preparations to close its own offices. On July 1, 1977, all remaining ARBA functions were turned over to the Department of Interior.





# THE MONTANA BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION



The Montana Bicentennial Administration was created by Governor Thomas L. Judge in July of 1973 to plan, coordinate and effect an appropriate commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Bicentennial of American freedom.

Harold G. "Hal" Stearns, former newspaper editor and passionate Montana historian, was appointed Administrator of the embryonic organization. His task was not an easy one. His fledgling organization, initially consisting of himself and a part-time secretary, was charged with the unenviable task of uplifting a very dispirited citizenry and promoting a celebration at a time when no one wanted one.

Montana's singular tie to the Bicentennial was Lewis and Clark, who were selected by Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and our third President, to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Territory (which included most of Montana). Montana was a pristine wilderness 200 years ago, a garden of eden for the native Indians who shared its boundless beauty with opulent wildlife. 200 years have seen dramatic and often traumatic changes in Montana's scenario, but one thing has remained unchanged—our fierce spirit of independence and love of individual freedom. This independence is what the people of Montana celebrated during the Bicentennial era. We Montanans celebrated our own exciting and unusual history. Truly a grassroots commemoration was what our people wanted, so the MBA set out to organize just that—a down-home, grassroots, neighborly "whoopup."

The MBA eventually grew to a dozen staff members, administering nearly a million dollars in administrative and grant funds. Each of Montana's 56 counties was organized, along with special groups and the Indian Reservations. 2,831 projects and activities were inspired and undertaken during the Bicentennial era, by far the most per capita in the nation.

The MBA printed a newsletter, guidebook, educational booklet, several Registers of Activities, and many other aids for effective Bicentennial planning for dissemination to the over 3,000 volunteers at work across the state. Workshops were held, slide shows and films utilized and speeches made almost daily in some city in this broad state.

The MBA wound down after the 4th of July, 1976, and finally closed its doors in January of 1977. This publication is the final work of the MBA.

The MBA maintained a low profile during the Bicentennial era, allowing full recognition for exceptional activities and projects to go to the "real" source of inspiration for the Bicentennial, the talented and good people of this exceptional state.

# THE MONTANA BICENTENNIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Montana Bicentennial Advisory Council was established in 1973 to advise and offer recommendations to the Montana Bicentennial Administration. The 30-member body met several times each year through 1976. They collectively served to advise the MBA and provide that special interest that enabled Montana to plan and effect a magnificent Bicentennial commemoration.

Many persons served on the Council during the Bicentennial era. First Ted Schwinden, now Lieutenant Governor, and then Dorothy Aasheim served as Chairperson of the Council. On July 4, 1976, the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the MBA Advisory Council consisted of the following Montanans:

Dorothy Aasheim, Bozeman (Chairperson)  
Lt. Governor Ted Schwinden, Helena  
Bob Henkel, Helena, (Vice Chairperson)  
Norma Ashby, Great Falls  
Harry Billings, Thompson Falls  
Charles Bovey, Great Falls  
Daphne Bugbee, Missoula  
Laura Daniels, Sidney  
Percy DeWolfe, Browning  
Tom Dooling, Dillon  
Carolyn Ennis, Billings  
Frenchy Gerard, Scobey  
Mary Haughian, Terry  
Gloria Heggen, Ekalaka  
Deean Leckie, Billings  
Don McClintock, Great Falls  
Mike Malone, Bozeman  
Polly Prchal, Billings  
John Quigley, Frontier Town, Helena  
Ashley Roberts, Helena  
Gordon Rognlien, Kalispell  
Henry Ruegamer, Hardin  
Signe Sedlacek, Havre  
Ann Smith, Butte  
Doug Smith, Helena  
Helen Stoner, Outlook  
Mary Tilton, Sheridan  
Billie Wallace, Cut Bank  
Martha Westgaard, Anaconda



# NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITIES

The Bicentennial Community Program was a national program developed by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration to honor communities which developed a comprehensive and exemplary Bicentennial program.

The operation of the program required the cooperation of local communities and state, regional and national Bicentennial offices. Eligible communities included any political subdivision which had elected governments such as cities, towns, villages, tribes. In Montana the majority of Bicentennial Communities were formed through counties.

Any community which wished to apply for national designation was required to have a Bicentennial committee appointed by the chief elected official of the community. The committee had to be broadly representative of the community as a whole, enlisting representatives of social, fraternal or civic groups along with other interested citizens. Once the local committee was appointed, it had to develop a comprehensive program to celebrate the Bicentennial utilizing the three Bicentennial themes—Heritage '76, Festival USA, and Horizons '76. Separate events and projects had to be developed in each of the thematic areas, with one project which would become a permanent and lasting reminder of the Bicentennial. In Montana, the Montana Bicentennial Administration required a minimum of 20 projects or events to be planned by a community in order to qualify.

Once the appointment of members and the planning was completed, a Bicentennial Community Application had to be filled out, listing members and projects. The application had to be signed by the local Bicentennial committee chairperson and the chief elected official of the political entity before being sent to the state Bicentennial office for review.

After the application was approved and signed by the Director of the MBA, it was forwarded to Denver and finally to Washington, D.C. for review by the ARBA Board.

In all, 46 Montana communities, including four Indian reservations and two military installations qualified and were recognized as National Bicentennial Communities (see following list). Once a community received official notification of its designation, the local committee was asked to select a date for presentation of various documents by representatives of the Montana Bicentennial Administration and the Regional ARBA office. National and state certificates of merit were presented to each community together with state and national Bicentennial flags. Governor Thomas L. Judge proclaimed a Bicentennial Community Day in Montana on the date each community received their Bicentennial Community awards.

Finally a Bicentennial Community was able to advertise its designation through a program developed by the MBA in cooperation with the State Highway Department. Using federal funds with local matching funds, the Highway Department provided "Bicentennial Community" signs for 1976. Motorists entering a county or city which participated in this program were graphically reminded of the efforts these communities made to develop a meaningful program for our nation's Bicentennial.

The following is a final list of the official Montana Bicentennial Communities:

ANACONDA/DEER LODGE COUNTY  
BEAVERHEAD COUNTY  
BIG HORN COUNTY  
BILLINGS/YELLOWSTONE COUNTY  
BLAINE COUNTY  
BOZEMAN/GALLATIN COUNTY  
BRIDGER  
BUTTE/SILVER BOW COUNTY  
CARTER COUNTY  
CASCADE COUNTY/GREAT FALLS  
CROW INDIAN RESERVATION  
DANIELS COUNTY  
FERGUS COUNTY  
FLATHEAD COUNTY  
FORT BENTON  
FORT PECK RESERVATION  
GARFIELD COUNTY  
GLACIER COUNTY  
GLASGOW/VALLEY COUNTY  
GLENDALE/DAWSON COUNTY  
GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY  
GRANITE COUNTY  
HARLOWTON  
HAVRE/HILL COUNTY  
HELENA/LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
LIBERTY COUNTY  
LINCOLN COUNTY  
MADISON COUNTY  
MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE (GREAT FALLS)  
MC CONE COUNTY  
MILES CITY/CUSTER COUNTY  
MISSOULA COUNTY  
MUSSELSHELL COUNTY  
OPHEIM AIR FORCE STATION (OPHEIM)  
PLENTYWOOD/SHERIDAN COUNTY  
POWDER RIVER COUNTY  
POWELL COUNTY  
PRAIRIE COUNTY  
RAVALLI COUNTY  
ROCKY BOY INDIAN RESERVATION  
ROSEBUD COUNTY  
SIDNEY/RICHLAND COUNTY  
TETON COUNTY  
TOOLE COUNTY  
TREASURE COUNTY  
WOLF POINT/ROOSEVELT COUNTY



# BICENTENNIAL GRANTS PROGRAM

Bicentennial grants were available to any agency of State, County, City, or Tribal government, School District or non-profit organization recognized by the IRS. Application was made to the MBA by the completion of a simple narrative application form which included a detailed description of the proposed Bicentennial project and a breakdown of the Budget for the project by line item. Funds were available only to specific projects which incorporated one or more of the three Bicentennial themes, Horizons '76, Heritage '76, or Festival U.S.A.

The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration in Washington, D.C. provided each State Bicentennial office with \$347,500: \$200,000 appropriated to each state and territory by Congress and the remainder from sales of commemorative stamps and medals. These grants had to be matched by either cash or in-kind services on the local level.

Grant monies became available as follows: \$ 40,000 — 11/73  
200,000 — 11/74  
40,000 — 11/74  
40,000 — 10/75  
27,500 — 2/76

In addition, in Fiscal Year '75 the Montana State legislature appropriated \$50,000 in State General Fund monies for Bicentennial projects and in Fiscal Year '76 another \$200,000. In all, the Montana Bicentennial Administration made grants of \$597,500 to 202 projects in the state. Grants went to 47 counties and 6 Indian Reservations in an attempt to distribute the grant funds as widely as possible. The average grant was for approximately \$2,950. (Under policy advice from the MBA Advisory Council the maximum grant to any project was \$5,000 unless the project had decisive statewide significance.)

Other criteria considered by the MBA and the Montana Bicentennial Advisory Council in selecting projects for grants were:

1. Pertinence to the Bicentennial themes of Festival, Horizons, Heritage;
2. Involvement of the local Bicentennial Committee in the community and general Bicentennial activity;
3. Availability of local matching funds;
4. Impact on minority groups, women and children;
5. Previous grants, if any, made to the geographical area or group;
6. New projects especially developed for the Bicentennial;
7. Singularity of the project.

After review by the MBA staff, the grant was either approved or rejected. When a grant was approved, an award letter was sent to the sponsoring group indicating approval and the amount of money approved.

Federal forms were filled out by the MBA staff and 3 copies sent to Denver and then Washington for final approval. When notification of approval was received from Washington, D.C., a federal number (e.g., 76-19-9999) was assigned to the project and a U.S. Treasury check followed in the mail. (In the case of a grant using only state monies, this procedure did not apply.) A standard contract was signed detailing the scope of the project, the amount of the grant, time limit for the project completion and the responsibilities to the MBA. Once the project was approved in Washington, D.C. or in Helena (if only state money was involved), two copies of the contract were sent to the sponsoring agency to be signed and returned to the MBA.

Finally, a notarized form was signed certifying that the project was completed and the money expended in accordance with the original contract.



Great Falls area youth involved in the Bicentennial.



## **BICENTENNIAL PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE M.B.A.**

### **Historical Education and Enlightenment—Red Lodge**

MBA 01

ARBA 41-6PM-73

Sponsor: City of Red Lodge

Grant Award: \$ 500

Funds were granted to the City of Red Lodge, acting as sponsor for the Carbon County Historical Society, to conduct an oral interview project. Early pioneers of the Red Lodge area were interviewed about the origins and history of Red Lodge and their recollections were preserved on tape. Tapes were then filed in the local library.

### **Pioneer Village—Great Falls**

MBA 02

ARBA 41-13PM-73

Sponsor: Cascade County Fair Board

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Cascade County Fair Board received funds to build a small Montana town of the type which existed in the area approximately 100 years ago. Plans called for about 15 buildings representing the 1876-1890 time period. All buildings were to be equipped and furnished with authentic artifacts and replicas of equipment in use during the period. The project was not successful and a total of \$2,959.75 in unexpended grant monies were returned to ARBA.

### **Makoshika State Park—Glendive**

MBA 03

ARBA 41-10PM-73

Sponsor: Glendive Chamber of Commerce

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

The Glendive Chamber of Commerce funded a training program in conjunction with Glendive Public Schools for area youth to work as tour guides in Makoshika State Park. The tours were then offered at no charge, and the guides served on a volunteer basis.

### **Central Montana Museum—Lewistown**

MBA 04

ARBA 41-8PM-73

Sponsor: Central Montana Historical Association, Inc.

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

Funds were awarded to the Central Montana Historical Association to repair the existing museum and to improve displays within the museum. The renovations now allow the museum to better display artifacts and historical material to tourists and area residents interested in the heritage of central Montana.

**Recorded History of Gallatin Valley—Bozeman**

MBA 05

ARBA 41-7PM-73, 76-19-3339

Sponsor: Bozeman Public Schools

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Bozeman public schools developed a collection of tapes made by students and adults in Bozeman and other Gallatin Valley communities. The depository is being maintained in perpetuity by the Bozeman Public High School Library, which also serves as a clearinghouse for these materials. This collection of recorded tapes serves to preserve the history and culture of the Gallatin area.

**Yard Beautification—Friendship Center—Helena**

MBA 06

ARBA 41-9PM-73

Sponsor: Friendship Center

Grant Award: \$ 350

The Friendship Center of Helena was awarded funds for labor and materials for yard beautification at the Center. This project improved the quality of life for the residents of this charitable center as well as the surrounding neighborhood.

**Wishing Fountain—Shodair Children's Hospital—Helena**

MBA 07

ARBA 41-2PM-73

Sponsor: Shodair Hospital

Grant Award: \$ 1,165

Funds were granted to the Shodair Children's Home and Hospital to construct a year-round fountain at the entrance to the hospital. The fountain is surrounded by a small pond and serves as a reminder of the importance of healthy youth to the future of our country in its third century.

**Lincoln County Photograph Collection—Libby**

MBA 08

ARBA 41-3PM-73

Sponsor: Libby Public Schools

Grant Award: \$ 650

The Libby Public Schools developed a collection of 200 historic photographs depicting the growth of Lincoln County. Original photographs were enlarged, mounted, and then a protective coating applied to give the pictures an aged look. The photographs were then divided into 4 traveling collections which were rotated throughout the county.

**Castle Museum Restoration—White Sulphur Springs**

MBA 09

ARBA 41-11PM-73

Sponsor: Meagher County Historical Society

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

The Meagher County Historical Society received grant funds for the general restoration of the Castle Museum. The museum is a restored Victorian home, originally constructed in 1892. The restoration work greatly added to the museum's ability to recapture the early life style of the area.



### **Historic Log House Renovation—Roundup**

MBA 10

ARBA 41-12PM-73

Sponsor: Musselshell Valley Historical Museum, Inc.

Grant Award: \$ 1,355

Funds were awarded to the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum to acquire, move and then renovate an historic old log ranch home. The building was moved from 4 miles east of Roundup to the present museum grounds where it is used as a permanent center for traveling exhibits of art, photography, and handicrafts.

### **Restoration of St. Mary's Mission—Stevensville**

MBA 11

ARBA 41-16PM-73

Sponsor: St. Mary's Mission Historical Foundation

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The St. Mary's Mission Historical Foundation was granted funds for an overall restoration of the church built by Father Ravalli in 1867. The chapel was restored to its original coat of paint. Also installed were underground electrical services for the entire complex. Finally, both the exterior and interior were renovated to approximate the original conditions.

### **World Museum of Mining—Butte**

MBA 12

ARBA 41-5PM-73

Sponsor: World Museum of Mining

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

Funds were granted to the World Heritage Museum of Mining to add a 30 by 50 foot steel building to allow for permanent storage of the many books, photographs, documents, maps and records which were previously not sorted or catalogued. The additional space has given the museum the ability to supply this material to scholars interested in the history of mining and of the Butte area.

### **Wildlife Sanctuary—Glasgow**

MBA 13

ARBA 41-14PM-73

Sponsor: Big Sky Kiwanis Club

Grant Award: \$ 5,480

The Big Sky Kiwanis club developed a recreational area which provides both park facilities and the opportunity for native wildlife, particularly birds, to find a natural sanctuary. Roads and a parking space were developed, along with picnic areas, sanitation facilities, a children's playground and a trout pond. A grain crop was also planted to attract birds and trees were planted to create shelter.

### **History of Shepherd**

MBA 14

ARBA 41-15PM-73

Sponsor: Shepherd Public Schools

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

A Heritage Corner was located in the School Library and includes pictorial displays of landmarks, people, artifacts, modes and methods of transportation and daily living, cattle and wagon trails. Also on display are student histories, taped interviews of pioneers, etc. The Young Historians wrote a historical account of the Shepherd area before 1900. In conjunction with the project, a darkroom was also installed.

**Economic Development Magazine—Statewide**

MBA 15

ARBA 41-4PM-73

Sponsor: Dept. of Community Affairs

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

Funds were awarded to the Department of Community Affairs to research the economic and statistical information necessary to write, edit, publish and distribute a magazine explaining the possibilities for and the advantages of appropriate economic development in Montana.

**Montana Booth—Expo '74—Statewide**

MBA 16

ARBA 41-1PM-73

Sponsor: State of Montana

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The State Department of Highways' Advertising Unit built a Montana Exhibit for the Spokane Expo '74. The exhibit contained 500 square feet of display space and drew attention from the 5 million visitors to Spokane during the Expo.

**Starr School Indian Days Celebration—Browning**

MBA 18

ARBA 76-19-3069

Sponsor: Starr School

Grant Award: \$ 3,350

The Starr School Indian Days Celebration sponsored by the Starr School Indian Youth Club occurred during the latter part of June, 1974. This was one of a series of on-going projects that documented and celebrated the role Indians played in our nation's heritage.

**Blaine County Museum—Chinook**

MBA 19

ARBA 76-19-1131

Sponsor: Blaine County Museum Board

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

The Blaine County Museum Board remodeled a donated building to provide a museum for the County. The primary purpose of the museum was to emphasize Montana's Western Frontier Heritage and Blaine County's role in this heritage. However, because of the size of the building art, a stone addition was also constructed at the site which doubled the floorspace for the museum's displays. Primary displays in the museum consist of fossil displays, dinosaur sketches and a collection of artifacts of the first white settlers in southeastern Montana.



**Carter County Museum—Eklaka**

MBA 20

ARBA 76-19-1132

Sponsor: Carter County Museum

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

The Carter County Museum expansion included the refurbishing of an old stone building to house the museum's collections and double previous floorspace.

**Civic Center for the Arts—Helena**

MBA 21

ARBA 76-19-1118

Sponsor: City of Helena

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

Funds were granted to the City of Helena to help in the renovation of the Civic Center. The first phase of the ballroom project included the renovation of the existing balcony to make it more accessible and usable, adding approximately 5,500 square feet of floor space.

**Bicentennial Park—Columbia Falls**

MBA 22

ARBA 76-19-3065

Sponsor: Columbia Falls High School

Grant Award: \$ 150

The Columbia Falls High School Ecology Club developed a Bicentennial Park on the site of a condemned school building which had been torn down. Rubble which remained was removed and topsoil replaced it. Grass, trees and shrubs were planted and the area was landscaped by students and other volunteers. The project eliminated a dangerous eyesore, beautified the area and directly led to environmental awareness and concern among the students.

**Daniels County Museum—Scobey**

MBA 23

ARBA 76-19-1119, 76-19-1120

Sponsor: Daniels County Museum Association

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Daniels County Museum Association received two \$2,500 grants to assist the museum's activities. One grant helped provide an addition to the present heritage building for the display of antique restored cars, trucks, wagons and sleighs. The other \$2,500 grant helped to construct a fireproof heated building which was a requisite for the museum to obtain a \$50,000 gun collection and a \$30,000 Indian Artifacts Collection.

**Wahkpa-Chu'gn Buffalo Jump—Havre**

MBA 24

ARBA 76-19-1117

Sponsor: H. Earl Clack Memorial Museum

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

Funds were granted the H. Earl Clack Museum for work on the Prehistoric Wahkpa-Chu-gn Buffalo kill site. In-place displays were constructed, a tour booklet printed to explain the significance of the site to the public, a detailed map prepared for inclusion in the tour booklet and an additional 5 radiocarbon dates run on organic material discovered at the site.

**Restoration of Former Governor's Mansion—Helena**

MBA 25

ARBA 76-19-1279

Sponsor: City of Helena

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

Funds allowed the City of Helena to help with the restoration of the original Montana Governor's Mansion which is listed in the National Register of Historic Sites. Restoration of the interior now approximates the lavish decoration and architecture of the period in which the building was constructed.

**Jefferson School Heritage Room—Helena**

MBA 27

ARBA 76-19-1121

Sponsor: Jefferson School

Grant Award: \$ 800

The Jefferson school built an American Heritage Room in a corner of the School Library. This area is now a learning center and a statewide model for other schools. Books, records, film strips, cassettes on American History, etc., were purchased by the students. In addition, display cases were constructed for rotating displays of historical items, provided by the students themselves.

**Bicentennial Recreation Court—Ennis**

MBA 28

ARBA 76-19-3071

Sponsor: Madison Valley Schools

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

The Madison Valley School system constructed an outdoor recreation court adjacent to the Ennis School. A cement court was laid and facilities for tennis, basketball, volleyball, and badminton were provided.

**Film—"A Walk in The Shadows"—Bozeman**

MBA 30

ARBA 76-19-3108

Sponsor: MSU Film Department

Grant funds were given to the MSU Department of Film & T.V. to develop a film exploration of certain ghost town areas in Montana and an impressionistic summation of the development of the state from the fur trading era to the steam agricultural period. The film used ghost town locations to explore the life style of the common people during Montana's early years. The film also paralleled Montana's general historical development (fur trade, mining, ranching and homesteading).

**Fort Missoula Restoration—Missoula**

MBA 31

ARBA 76-19-4219

Sponsor: Western Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society

Grant Award: \$ 4,500

The sponsors constructed an indoor Museum of Western Montana History in the Old Quartermaster Building at the original site of Fort Missoula. Included in the grant funds were the renovation of the building and the construction of exhibit cases to display historic artifacts and memorabilia.



**Conrad Mansion Museum—Kalispell**

MBA 32

ARBA 76-19-3477

Sponsor: City of Kalispell

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

This historic mansion, now a memorial museum, was purchased by the City of Kalispell for the Bicentennial and funds were used for permanent improvements. Initial improvements included repair and restoration of the existing structure and its facilities and a temporary heating system. Additionally, valuable historical papers were forwarded to the University of Montana to be studied and catalogued by an archivist.

**Plains Recreation Center—Plains**

MBA 33

ARBA 76-19-3068

Sponsor: Plains Public School

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Funds were granted to the Plains Public Schools to help develop a recreation center in a new gymnasium complex. Equipment was purchased which will serve the recreation needs of all age groups in the community.

**Powell County Museum—Deer Lodge**

MBA 35

ARBA 76-19-4456

Sponsor: Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

Funds were awarded to the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation to renovate a historic building in Deer Lodge for use, not only as a museum for the historic Deer Lodge Valley, but also for use as an art center for area artists.

**Ravalli County Museum—Hamilton**

MBA 36

ARBA 76-19-3075

Sponsor: Bitterroot Valley Historical Association

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

The sponsor converted an old tipi burner into a museum large enough to display important artifacts and historic items. The new museum serves as the center of a proposed complex of structures to be built of native materials such as logs and stone for other historic artifacts and collections.

**Seeley Lake Medical Center—Seeley Lake**

MBA 37

ARBA 76-19-3074

Sponsor: Seeley Lake Medical Center

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

Funds were granted to the Seeley Lake Medical Center to assist in its operation. It is a rural center 60 miles from the nearest medical facilities. Grant funds helped expand Student Nurse Field Experiences, Growth & Development Clinics for children 1-5 years old on a monthly basis for yearly athletic physicals, immunization and dental programs.

**Pioneer Museum—Glasgow**

MBA 38

ARBA 76-19-3070, 76-19-3072

Sponsor: Valley County Historical Society

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

Two grants of \$1,000 each were given to the Society to aid in the completion of the interior of the museum as well as to add to the museum's collection two special historic dioramas, a homestead display, additional display cases and to do some historical research. Under the second grant a special Bicentennial display was prepared and the museum grounds were landscaped and beautified with grass and shrubs.

**Whitehall Medical Clinic—Whitehall**

MBA 39

ARBA 76-19-3073

Sponsor: Jefferson Valley Development Corporation

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

The sponsor received funds to construct a medical clinic for the Whitehall area. Lack of suitable facilities in the past made it impossible for the area to attract and retain a physician. The community hoped to attract other professionals to provide complete health services to the surrounding area.

**Pre-historic History of Frenchmen's Creek—Whitewater**

MBA 40

ARBA 76-19-3076

Sponsor: Whitewater School District 20AA

Grant Award: \$ 1,800

The school district received funds for studies in the Frenchmen Creek area to identify, interpret and record evidence of early human activity in the area. The information secured was recorded for use in a future Montana history and the fossils and artifacts discovered are being preserved for use in a future Phillips County museum.

**Wolf Point Monument— Wolf Point**

MBA 41

ARBA 76-19-3066

Sponsor: City of Wolf Point

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

Funds were provided to the City of Wolf Point to hire a sculptor to craft a life size statue of a man on horseback paying homage to both the land and the early settlers in Montana. The statue, entitled "The Homage" was cast in bronze and placed in the city park in downtown Wolf Point. The entire park was beautified and the statue at the park's center will remind many of the Bicentennial for years to come.

**Tobacco Valley Village—Eureka**

MBA 42

ARBA 76-19-3215

Sponsor: Tobacco Valley Improvement Association

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

The Tobacco Valley Historical Village is a small museum dedicated to displaying the items, crafts and skills that are part of the heritage of northwestern Montana. Funds were used to remodel an old church on the grounds.



**Broadwater County Museum—Townsend**

MBA 45

ARBA 76-19-1116

Sponsor: Canton Valley Women's Club

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

The new museum is providing long needed space and security for numerous local memorabilia and historic documents that would otherwise be lost. A library is attached to the museum to further benefit this small community.

**Frontier Gateway Museum—Glendive**

MBA 54

ARBA 76-19-3067

Sponsor: Frontier Gateway Museum

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

The Frontier Gateway Museum contains fossils and artifacts from the times when dinosaurs roamed the area. The newest outstanding feature is the frontier town street which recreates the atmosphere of the "real" Wild West in early Glendive.

**Troy Tourist Center—Troy**

MBA 55

ARBA 76-19-3208

Sponsor: Troy Methodist Church

Grant Award: \$ 500

The town of Troy needed a center to promote tourism and display native works of art; in other words, a community information center. The sponsors procured an old railroad building and completed the tourist center in time for the Bicentennial. Funds were used to provide a floor, renovate chimneys, and, in general, restore the old railroad building after it was moved.

**Council Grove Craft School—Missoula**

MBA 69

ARBA 76-19-3523

Sponsor: Council Grove Craft School

Grant Award: \$ 4,500

Bicentennial funds were used to develop a blacksmithing program at the school. No school for this dying craft existed in this state prior to the program.

**Film—"Montana Revisited Along the Lewis and Clark Trail"—Statewide**

MBA 70

ARBA 76-19-3514

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

This 28-minute film featured a modern day journey along the historic Lewis and Clark Trail. More than 400 TV stations ran the film as a public service during the Bicentennial era.

**Jaycee Bicentennial Fair—Helena**

MBA 71

ARBA 76-19-1216

Sponsor: Helena Jaycees

Grant Award: \$ 3,550

The fair included many activities such as bicycle and model-T races, horseshoeing, games, contests, exhibits. The Bicentennial Fair has become a feature of the Helena summer season.

**Chief Joseph Marker—Ryegate**

MBA 77

ARBA 76-19-1278

Sponsor: Golden Valley Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 600

A marker was placed at the site where Chief Joseph and his band of Nez Perce Indians crossed the Musselshell River on their way to Canada while eluding the U.S. military. A large granite marker was inscribed with a historical description of Chief Joseph's flight from Idaho. Also, a historical pamphlet was printed in conjunction with the monument dedication describing the marker's significance in detail.

**Range Rider Annex and Catalog—Miles City**

MBA 80

ARBA 76-19-1130

Sponsor: Range Riders, Inc.

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Range Riders were awarded a Bicentennial grant from the Montana Bicentennial Administration in the amount of \$5,000 which was used to complete an annex to the museum. The annex provided space for future bequests. Present and future historical items were also catalogued.

**Restoration of Fort Owen—Stevensville**

MBA 81

ARBA 76-19-3364

Sponsor: Stevensville Historical Society

Grant Award: \$ 3,050

The Fort Owen trading post, established in 1850, was restored. All the buildings and structures will be restored as they were, beginning with the old adobe wall of Fort Owen. The complete restoration of Fort Owen is an ongoing project of the Society.

**Renovation of Eagles Hall—Gardiner**

MBA 84

ARBA 76-19-1129

Sponsor: Gardiner Eagles Lodge

Grant Awarded: \$ 5,000

The Eagles Hall in Gardiner is utilized for nearly every civic, social, health and governmental activity in the community. Grant funds were used to repair and remodel the hall to insure continued community use. Extensive exterior and interior remodeling included a new roof, lighting, paneling, and more.



**Beautification of School Grounds—Sidney**

MBA 85

ARBA 76-19-1122

Sponsor: Sidney Kiwanis Club

Grant Awarded: \$ 200

Grant funds were used to beautify school grounds and provide the children with both a play area and an environment conducive to the observation and study of vegetation and wildlife. Trees, shrubs and grass were planted to create a natural habitat for birds and small animals.

**Historical Drama: "Echoes Along the Yellowstone"—Sidney**

MBA 86

ARBA 76-19-1133

Sponsor: Richland County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Awarded: \$ 600

A historical pageant was presented during the Richland Roundup August 11-12, 1976. The pageant consisted of several skits ranging from a minstrel show to a salute to the distinct decades of the twentieth century. A wide range of the community was involved.

**Augusta Youth Center—Augusta**

MBA 87

ARBA 76-10-1128

Sponsor: American Legion Post 51

Grant Awarded: \$ 4,500

The young people of Augusta and surrounding farms and ranches desperately needed a place to go to socialize and recreate, especially in the winter months. Grant funds were used to complete the interior of a youth center and install gaming machines, juke box, etc. The young people themselves now help maintain and support this total community effort.

**Library History Project—Statewide**

MBA 89

ARBA 76-19-1127

Sponsor: Montana Bicentennial Administration and Montana State Library

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The sponsors made available to each public library in the state a \$100 matching grant for the purchase of historical books in recognition of the Bicentennial. A total of 50 libraries participated.

**Museum of Irrigated Agriculture—Huntley Project**

MBA 91

Sponsor: Huntley Project Museum

Grant Award: \$ 2,400

Grant funds were used to help develop the museum which depicted irrigated agriculture through the twentieth century. The evolution of agricultural machinery, technology and farm crops highlight the new museum. An arboretum of native flora of the Great Plains complete the museum.

**J.K. Ralston Film—Billings**

MBA 93

ARBA 76-19-1126

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The life of a truly great Western artist from Montana, J.K. Ralston, is now preserved on film. The short film reminisces with Ralston about his beginnings, his work and his love of the West. The film was distributed nationwide and won an award for creative excellence in 1976 at the United States Industrial Film Festival.

**"Growing Pains," A History of Three Forks—Three Forks**

MBA 96

ARBA 76-19-1125

Sponsor: Three Forks School District

Grant Award: \$ 1,950

School children interviewed old-timers, gathered photographs and records, and researched government records and family histories in preparation for the writing and publication of a history of this important little town at the headwaters of the Missouri River. The 114-page book is packed with significant information about this town that grew up at the confluence of the Gallatin, Jefferson and Madison rivers.

**"Montana Room" at Montana State University—Bozeman**

MBA 97

ARBA 76-19-1124

Sponsors: Alpha Lambda Delta Sorority

Grant Award: \$ 400

A specified area of the university library was dedicated to the Bicentennial and stocked with books and art of historical value. The Montana Room is open to the public and stands as a permanent Bicentennial display.

**Peace Monument—Sheridan County**

MBA 98

ARBA 76-19-1143

Sponsor: Sheridan County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

A permanent monument evidencing peace and harmony between the United States and Canada was erected cooperatively by the people of Sheridan County and the Province of Saskatchewan.

**Bikecentennial '76**

MBA 99

ARBA 87-19-3451

Sponsor: Bikecentennial '76

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

Bikecentennial '76 developed the Trans-America Trail, a cross country bike route with housing, food and support services available for riders. Tours are available each summer. Bikecentennial '76 received national Bicentennial recognition from ARBA.



**The Thomas C. Power Manuscript Collection—Statewide**

MBA 101

ARBA 76-19-1123

Sponsor: Montana Historical Society

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

This massive and important collection was processed, organized and properly archived by the Historical Society. A guide to the collection was printed and this valuable collection now provides scholars with much new primary research material directly applicable to several areas of historic, economic, and social interest.

**"Voices in Montana's Past": A Radio Series—Statewide**

MBA 103

ARBA 76-19-3109

Sponsor: The Fine Tuning Company

Grant Award: \$ 3,500

The Fine Tuning Company recorded the reminiscences of many of Montana's older citizens and produced from these recordings a series of 52 four to five minute radio programs which were offered free of charge to Montana's radio stations. The weekly series was broadcast during the Bicentennial year and treated listeners to a real taste of Montana's historical and colorful past.

**The Rainbow Company Children's Theatre—Billings**

MBA 110

ARBA 76-19-3155

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

Staffed and supported by the community, the Rainbow Theatre was created during the Bicentennial to increase the opportunity for children in Montana to experience children's literature brought to life. Workshops in acting, dance, mime, and plays offer young people an outlet for creative expression.

**Blackfeet Arts and Crafts Film—Statewide**

MBA 111

ARBA 76-19-3688

Sponsor: The Sun Foundation

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Blackfeet Indians were filmed as they produced traditional art and materials. The film was produced to conserve information about traditional Blackfeet tribal arts for the future; to provide visitors to Glacier National Park with a greater appreciation and understanding of the theme, materials and human spirit that go into each individual craftsman's work; and, to provide background information for the live craft demonstrations presented by Blackfeet tribal members in the St. Mary Visitor Center of Glacier Park in the summer of 1976 as part of the Park's Bicentennial activities.

**Bicentennial Lodge—Glendive**

MBA 112

ARBA 76-19-3500

Sponsor: Glendive Lions Club

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

Bicentennial funds were used to furnish the inside of the Bicentennial lodge near Makoshika State Park in Glendive. The lodge, a tribute to the Bicentennial, is being used to house any worthy non-profit organization which wishes to make use of the facilities during trips to the state park. Bicentennial funds were also used to provide equipment and furnishings in the lodge. The lodge is run as a non-profit enterprise by the local Lions Club as a public service gesture.

**Red Sunday Film—Statewide**

MBA 114

ARBA 76-19-3156

Sponsors: MBA, North Dakota ARBA, Montana Travel Promotion Unit, North Dakota Travel Bureau

Grant Award: \$ 9,250-MBA

The states of Montana and North Dakota produced this 28 minute color film about the clash of two cultures manifested in the Battle of the Little Big Horn, the Custer Battle. The film has been viewed by over 20 million people via television and has won five national and international awards for its cinematic excellence.

**Community Music Project—Shelby**

MBA 115

ARBA 76-19-3522

Sponsor: School District #14 Board of Trustees

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

Bicentennial funds were used by the community of Shelby to purchase a grand piano for use by the students of Toole County and also for general use by community groups. Many musical activities cannot be performed in the area because of the lack of a grand piano. The availability of the piano allowed the community to produce a number of Bicentennial-oriented productions, such as the play "1776."

**Yellowstone Boys' Ranch—Billings**

MBA 116

Sponsor: Yellowstone Boys' Ranch

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

Grant funds were used to purchase a divider curtain for the gymnasium at the physical education center at the Yellowstone Boys' Ranch. The ranch is a non-profit organization which "helps small boys with big problems." The curtain enables the Boys' Ranch to utilize the gymnasium, the principle indoor recreation facility, to its maximum potential. The curtain allowed the Boys' Ranch to conduct a multi-media Bicentennial display.

**Celebration Grounds Complex—Ft. Belknap Indian Reservation**

MBA 117

ARBA 76-19-3453

Sponsor: Fort Belknap Tribes

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Fort Belknap Tribes developed a rodeo-celebration grounds complex consisting of a rodeo arena and a permanent, covered Indian dance arena. The construction of both enhanced tourism and encouraged inter-tribal relations.



**Immunization Project—Statewide**

MBA 118

ARBA 76-19-3534

Sponsor: MBA and Department of Health, State of Montana

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

Carol Judge, wife of Governor Thomas L. Judge, created an Immunization Task Force which, in cooperation with the MBA and the state Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, attempted to immunize every child under 12 in Montana. Health Department statistics indicated a grave need for immunization throughout the state, and the vehicle used was the Bicentennial and the annual Immunization Action Month conducted by the Health Department in October. Bicentennial funds allowed the program to be expanded far beyond the capabilities of the Health Department by purchasing vaccine and by publicizing the program throughout the state. Thus far in the project, more than five times as many vaccines have been given than in previous years.

**Young Audiences Bicentennial Program—Missoula County**

MBA 119

Sponsor: Young Audiences of Western Montana

Grant Award: \$ 2,400

Young Audiences' musical ensembles brought music written by American composers for the celebration of the Bicentennial to elementary classroom children. Students experienced a correlation of history and music in an attempt to increase their understanding of why we celebrated the Bicentennial. Numerous schools participated in the Young Audiences Bicentennial programs.

**Ornamental Fountain—Anaconda**

MBA 121

ARBA 76-19-3197

Sponsor: Deer Lodge County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 3,500

Grant funds were used to construct a functional, ornamental fountain on the northwest corner of Kennedy Commons in the center of the business district of Anaconda.

**"The Sun Gave Man The Power" Film—Statewide**

MBA 123

ARBA 76-19-3168

Sponsor: The Sun Foundation

Grant Award: \$ \$4,500

The film utilized oral histories of elder members of the Pikuni-Blackfeet Tribe of Montana and presented the historical and religious heritage of Blackfeet tribal life. The interpretative film was made available for educational use in American History Studies and is suitable for wide audience exposure through Public Educational Television broadcasts. The film was also used at the St. Mary's Visitor Center, Glacier National Park, and presented to approximately 2,000 visitors per day in 1976.

**Bicentennial Communications Network—Statewide**

MBA 124

ARBA 76-19-1191

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 7,200

Funds were used to hire two interns, one in Billings and one in Helena, to develop frequent, informative contact between the MBA and county committees; more effective coordination of federal, state and local Bicentennial activities, information and funding; better coordination between the MBA and established state agencies; and, development of a master list of Montana Bicentennial events.

**History of Lonepine, Hot Springs and Camas Prairie—Sanders County**

MBA 126

ARBA 76-19-3196

Sponsor: Hot Springs School District #14

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Funds were used to research, write and publish a history of the Hot Springs, Lonepine and Camas Prairie area. Local schools' History classes helped collect, compile and edit the history. They also typed the copy. The book preserves the history of this isolated area and inspires an understanding of local heritage by the area's young people.

**Tour of the Musical "1776"—Statewide**

MBA 128

ARBA 76-19-3454

Sponsors: MBA and Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 9,000

After touring over 20 cities and performing over 35 times, the 40-member cast of the exciting play, "1776" returned to Eastern Montana College. Proceeds from the production were donated to the Shrine Hospital. The play was a huge success in each city.

**Montana Bicentennial Register of Activities—Statewide**

MBA 130

ARBA 76-19-3107

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

The MBA periodically published a register of activities detailing plans of local and state Bicentennial groups. Three registers were published, the final one delineating the 2,831 Bicentennial projects and activities that were carried out during the Bicentennial era. The registers were used to inform the various media and Bicentennial organizations in Montana and around the country of Montana's plans for the celebration.

**Arlee Fire District Road and Family Name Signs—Arlee**

MBA 131

Sponsor: Arlee Volunteer Fire Department

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Project's objectives were to clarify road names and locations of dwellers; decrease time for firemen to reach a fire, for sheriff to respond to a call, for an ambulance to reach an emergency; to increase awareness of historical events in the area by emphasizing use of pioneer family names and Indian names for roads; and increase pride in the community. Funds were used to order and install the signs and to publish a brochure with a map giving history of names and roads.



**Film: Archaeology: The Changing Dawn"**

MBA 133

ARBA 76-19-3341

Sponsor: Montana State University Film & Television Department

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

The purpose of the film was to educate and inform the public of the relevance of archaeological discoveries in modern society. Modern man faces the same basic problem that prehistoric man faced: relating to his environment. The study of the development of early man may lead to solutions to the problems facing modern man. The film encourages public participation in the field of archaeology. It explores how people may cope with environmental changes that cause cultural disturbances. The film also correlates the study of the evolution of one cultural system with the survival of another. While specifically oriented to Montana, the film is intended for broader application as its implications are virtually universal.

**City Hall/Library/Museum/Family Recreation Center—Cascade**

MBA 135

ARBA 76-19-3683

Sponsor: City of Cascade

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

Funds were used to purchase an unused supermarket for the development of a city hall, library, rifle club, museum, and office for the town marshal. Previously, there were no facilities in the city of Cascade for these purposes. The Bicentennial Executive Board of the city of Cascade appointed a board of directors to supervise the operations of this family recreation center. The development of this building provided these much needed services for the community.

**Yellowstone Journey—Statewide**

MBA 139

ARBA 76-19-3124

Sponsor: Board of County Commissioners of Custer County

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

A replica of a fur boat called the Wan-I-Gan used by early fur trappers was floated and poled down the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers from Miles City, Montana to St. Louis, Missouri, stopping at various ports along the way. The boat was filled with furs and recreated the historic trips made by the early fur traders.

The Yellowstone Journey was proclaimed a National Bicentennial Project and over 100,000 people visited the Wan-I-Gan during the historic trek.

**Historic Electric Locomotive Display—Harlowton**

MBA 142

ARBA 76-19-3195

Sponsor: Wheatland County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The sponsor moved a 100-ton electric switch engine to a permanent display site in Harlowton, Montana. The engine, donated by the Milwaukee Road, was painted and put in condition for display in the Harlowton Park. The engine is of great historic value. It is over 60 years old and is the last assigned electric locomotive to work in Harlowton. The city has agreed to keep the engine in reasonable condition in the future and also to maintain the display area.

### **Improvement of 750 Club Sports Grounds—Flaxville**

MBA 143

Sponsor: 750 Club

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The 750 Club of Flaxville was organized for the purpose of sponsoring, sanctioning, and promoting recreational activities for the use of the community and promotion of all sports of all kinds. Funds were used to complete the 750 Club Sports Grounds, including a well to provide water for stock, concession stands, and other improvements.

### **Community Recreation Park & Ball Field—Peerless**

MBA 144

Sponsor: Peerless American Legion Auxiliary

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The Auxiliary completely renovated the present park and ball field. The field, restroom facilities, concession stand and bleachers needed considerable work. Trees and shrubs were also planted and a water system installed. All this work was necessary for the residents of this small community to have a safe and appropriate place for recreational activities.

### **Regional All-Indian Basketball Championships—Statewide**

MBA 145

ARBA 76-19-3272

Sponsor: Tri-State Tribes

Grant Award: \$ 500

The National Indian Activities Association (NIAA) developed this first all-Indian championship. Eastern Montana College hosted this unprecedented event.

### **"Los Amigos"—Billings**

MBA 149

ARBA 76-19-3384

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 500

Funds purchased costumes to promote cultural awareness through dancing and music and the presentation of the heritage of the Mexican people. These objectives were met through authentic Mexican dancing, costuming, and music, and gave both Mexican and non-Mexican peoples the experience of Mexican culture. 24 Mexican-American youths, aged 6-13, participated in Los Amigos as dancers.

### **Photographic History of Blaine County—Blaine County**

MBA 154

ARBA 76-19-3869

Sponsor: Blaine County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 500

Funds were used to collect, restore, preserve, and exhibit photographs depicting the history of Blaine County. The collection is available for display or teaching through schools, libraries and other interested local groups. The display is a permanent part of the archives of the Blaine County Museum.



**Bicentennial Collection—Kalispell**

MBA 160

ARBA 76-19-3866

Sponsor: Flathead County Library

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

The sponsor collected and preserved source materials relating to the history of Flathead County which included letters, journals, memorabilia, business records, maps, newspapers, and photographs. The library board of trustees approved the use of the funds and space for a Bicentennial Room to house state and local history in addition to selected national histories and other evaluative material written in celebration of the Bicentennial.

**Bicentennial Town Meetings '76—Statewide**

MBA 156

ARBA 76-19-3905

Sponsor: Institute of Cultural Affairs

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

The objectives of the program were 1) to provide a meaningful celebration of the Horizons dimension of the Bicentennial; 2) to demonstrate a viable format for a Town Meeting which would provide effective planning methods that could be used in a variety of community settings; 3) to provide a new sense of grassroots participation in the creation of America's future; and, 4) to give Montanans the opportunity to participate in a nationwide Bicentennial program. Eight town meetings were held across Montana during 1976.

**"First School House" Preservation—Plains**

MBA 161

Sponsor: Town of Plains

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

Purpose of the project was to relocate and preserve the first school building in Plains, which was built with volunteer labor and donated materials in 1884. This project helped to preserve the history of the Wildhorse Plains and surrounding valley.

**Preservation of Two Medicine Fight Site—Cut Bank**

MBA 166

Sponsors: Boy Scouts of America, Nu-Ooh-Ska District

Grant Award: \$ 350

Some work was done in the past to preserve this site. The objective of this proposal was to continue this preservation until such time as the area and other areas of the Lewis & Clark expedition within Montana could be permanently preserved.

**State Bicentennial Park Selection Commission—Statewide**

MBA 167

ARBA 76-19-3904

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 8,000

This grant provided staff support and expenses for the commission members who sought, developed, inspected and finally chose the official Bicentennial site for a state park. The Headwaters State Monument site near Three Forks, Montana, was selected and is near completion in its transformation into the Bicentennial State Park. \$500,000 in state and federal funds were invested in the project.

**Bicentennial Historical Tape Library—Baker**

MBA 169

ARBA 76-19-3737

Sponsor: Dawson College R.S.V.P. Program

Grant Award: \$ 300

Bicentennial funds were used to purchase tape recorders, tapes, and for contracted services to reproduce the tapes for general dissemination. R.S.V.P. volunteers recorded the oral reminiscences of older people in the area. Tapes were made, duplicated and stored in the local library for use by individuals and schools. In addition to the history, a scrapbook is being kept with pictures that pertain to the times and events recorded on the tapes.

**Land Use and Agricultural Symposium—Statewide**

MBA 175

ARBA 76-19-3734

Sponsor: Environmental Information Center (EIC)

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

EIC produced a slide-tape program examining land use directions in Montana which included an overview of the extent of urban growth and natural resource development, growth policy statements from relevant corporate and public interests and an illustration of events surrounding the confrontation of agricultural and developmental interests.

**New Commissioned Symphony—Statewide**

MBA 176

ARBA 76-19-3868

Sponsor: Great Falls Symphony Association, Inc.

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

A nationally renowned composer, William Bergsma, was commissioned to write an original symphonic work in honor of our nation's Bicentennial that was performed by various Montana symphony orchestras. The symphony is now available for other symphonies that request it.

**St. Peter's Mission Restoration—Cascade**

MBA 177

Sponsor: Uptown Optimist Club

Grant Award: \$ 750

Grant funds were used to restore the St. Peter's Mission west of Cascade. The mission is the third oldest in Montana and the oldest east of the mountains. Restoration included repainting the mission, both inside and out, and cleaning up the grounds.

**Restoration/Preservation of C.M. Russell Home—Great Falls**

MBA 178

Sponsor: Montana Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

Project featured the renovation of the C.M. Russell Home, Gallery and Studio in Great Falls, which included repairing walls, ceilings, stairwells, gutters and downspouts; painting, sanding and hanging paper and curtains and many other repair jobs.



**American Freedom Train—Billings**

MBA 179

ARBA 76-19-3452

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

Funds were expended in a number of areas for a number of services which were vitally important to the success of the Freedom Train Festival. These costs included security over and above what was available through the local law enforcement agencies; insurance; utilities; equipment rental; and expenses to construct exhibits. The festival was a 4-day event in conjunction with the Freedom Train. It included exhibits and visual demonstrations evincing the cultural heritage of minorities in Montana. The statewide festival drew participants from throughout Montana as well as visitors from Wyoming and the Dakotas. Billings was the only Montana stop for this historic train.

**All-State Music Festival—Statewide**

MBA 180

ARBA 76-19-3735

Sponsor: Montana Music Educators' Association

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

Bicentennial funds were used to commission Montana composers, Donald Johnston and J.G. Powell, to write a work for orchestra and chorus. The work was entitled "Fires of Another Time". The Montana High School Association All-State Band, Orchestra and Chorus, composed of high school musicians from throughout the state, performed the work. The performers were selected by audition from every school in Montana. The premiere was held during the 1975 Montana Music Educators Association, Montana High School Association All-State Festival.

**Community Youth Center—Geraldine**

MBA 181

Sponsor: American Legion Auxiliary

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

There were no youth facilities in Geraldine prior to the Bicentennial. Grant funds provided a center consisting of a game room, kitchen and T.V. room.

**Bicentennial Awards Program—Statewide**

MBA 182

ARBA 76-19-3747

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

The MBA needed funds for awards and prizes for special activities during the Bicentennial era. Money was also used for gifts to special visitors, parade winners and contest winners.

**Recreation Center—Elmdale**

MBA 183

ARBA 76-19-5219

Sponsor: Kiwanis Club of Sidney

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

Bicentennial funds were used to purchase supplies to develop a Bicentennial recreation park consisting of baseball facilities, bleachers and a fence. To commemorate the new recreation area, a permanent stone marker designating the area as an official Bicentennial project built in honor of our nation's 200th birthday was erected by the project sponsors.

### **BIMONT Computerized Calendar System—Statewide**

MBA 185

ARBA 76-19-3832

Sponsor: Montana Bicentennial Association

Grant Award: \$ 10,000

ARBA grant funds were used together with state funds to pay for the development of a computer system for Montana which was compatible with BINET and the Binet forms. The systems allowed the MBA to respond accurately and effectively to the many questions concerning projects, events, locations, dates and times. Many requests from large travel organizations or corporations in the travel field were previously unable to be filled because of the inability of existing systems to respond quickly to this type of information request.

### **Moving and General Renovation of Rural School Building—Circle**

MBA 186

Sponsor: McCone County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 640

Project goal was to move and renovate an historic rural school building. The building was moved 30 miles to Circle, the county seat. Renovation included replacing windows, lawn work and a new foundation for the building.

### **Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow in Missoula**

MBA 187

Sponsor: Institute of the Rockies

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

The project involved the people of Missoula County through education and participation in a collective evaluation of the community's quality of life and future improvement. By organizing a Fair emphasizing Missoula's relation to its natural setting, by establishing a Center to coordinate and sponsor efforts at qualitative improvement, and by launching a Forum for debate of life-quality issues, the project nurtured a renewal of civic purpose and fostered a more enlightened public view of Missoula's future.

### **"Roosevelt's Treasured Years" Publication—Roosevelt County**

MBA 188

ARBA 76-19-3475

Sponsor: Roosevelt County Commissioners

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

This local 1,000 page history included nearly 1,800 photographs and pictures, dozens of maps, and information on the exciting history of this area from Lewis and Clark to the fur trading era, from the railroads and the great Missouri River to more than 800 personal family histories. Truly, this volume evidences the soul of Roosevelt County.

### **Historical Photos of Florence**

MBA 189

Sponsor: Florence-Carlton School

Grant Award: \$ 100

This school collected pictures that best depicted the early days of Florence. Pictures were selected by an archivist from the university and a local committee. Enlargements were placed in the foyer of the school and smaller prints in classrooms. The project preserved local history and made people aware of the pioneer beginnings of Florence.



**Bicentennial Town Park—Noxon**

MBA 195

Sponsor: Thompson Falls/Trout Creek/Noxon Chamber of Commerce

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The town park was improved for the Bicentennial and included leveling the land, laying drainage pipes, installing water pipes for irrigation purposes, topsoil, planting trees, shrubs and lawn and finally, dedicating the park on the 4th of July, 1976.

**Main Street Beautification—Thompson Falls**

MBA 196

Sponsor: Thompson Falls-Noxon-Trout Creek Chamber of Commerce

Grant Award: \$ 750

The main street of Thompson Falls was upgraded for the Bicentennial by placing benches in front of stores and planting trees alternately between the benches.

**Renovation of Clubhouse—Opportunity**

MBA 198

ARBA 76-19-3870

Sponsor: Deer Lodge County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 3,500

ARBA funds were used to purchase supplies and materials for the interior of the building. The clubhouse was re-roofed, re-wired, and restrooms were installed. The clubhouse is home for church services, voting, and a meeting place for over 20 organized groups in the community. It was also used for local, county and state Bicentennial displays and exhibits.

**Firemen's Park—Edgar**

MBA 199

Sponsor: Edgar Volunteer Fire District

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Prior to the Bicentennial there were no public parks or recreational facilities in the community of Edgar. Firemen's Park provides outdoor picnic and recreational opportunities for the more than 200 residents of the area and for visitors. The park is also being used for outdoor community functions, school concerts, and more.

**Homecoming Club Renovation—Pony**

MBA 200

Sponsor: Harrison School District

Grant Award: \$ 600

Funds were used to help maintain the Homecoming Club of Pony which is used by various organizations for social activities and meetings. Maintenance included a new roof and minor repairs. The club is a center for social activity in this small community.

**Park Sanitation Facilities—Three Forks**

MBA 201

Sponsor: Town of Three Forks

Grant Award: \$ 1,167

Grant was for the addition of wash basins, toilets, sewer, water and concrete floor at the wading pool, and outside drinking fountain at the baseball park.

**Liberty Expo—Great Falls**

MBA 203

ARBA 76-19-3947

Sponsor: Big Sky Girl Scout Council

Grant Award: \$ 4,500

Liberty Expo was designed to satisfy all three themes of the Bicentennial. By utilizing the Big Sky Girl Scout Council-produced Bicentennial packet, Girl Scouts, their families, and their communities participated in the Heritage and Horizons themes by bringing their plans and dreams together for a 3-day Festival. The Expo was held at the State Fairgrounds in Great Falls June 18-20, 1976 and combined the work of girls in the 30 western counties of Montana. There were 55 booths and each one was a showcase for work done by Girl Scout troops during the year.

**Pre-1910 One Room School House Identification—Madison County**

MBA 204

Sponsor: School District 7, Madison County

Grant Award: \$ 175

Purpose of project was to preserve the history of School District 7 in Madison County. Bicentennial funds were used to provide signs for identifying the 13 one-room school sites of historic significance in the county.

**Erection of Bicentennial Monument—Twin Bridges**

MBA 206

Sponsor: American Legion Post 31

Grant Award: \$ 500

A permanent monument of granite, marble, steel and red concrete was erected in the City Park in Twin Bridges.

**Heritage Park—Bridger**

MBA 207

Sponsor: Bridger Lions Club

Grant Award: \$ 1500

The Bridger Lions Club built a Heritage Park which featured a metal sculpture of Jim Bridger, picnic and barbecue area, a paved parking area, a chain link fence between park and highway, a log cabin moved from its original site to the park, and a plaque listing important historical events of the area.

**Small Town Renaissance—Statewide**

MBA 209

ARBA 76-19-3901

Sponsor: Department of Community Affairs, State of Montana

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

Project objectives included: 1) printing and distribution of 300 copies of "Small Town Renaissance" to local volunteers and study commissions throughout the state; 2) planning, arranging, and convening five workshops on the Montana Study throughout the state; 3) holding a two day retreat to develop an outline for a new study guide, detailing a funding plan for the establishment of a new study, and defining roles and relationships necessary for a new study; and, 4) publishing a new study guide and taking action on the results of the two day retreat. Bicentennial funds were used to support initial steps of the project.



### **Landmarks Bicentennial Oral History—Billings**

MBA 211

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 200

This project developed community skills and resources in the first large scale oral history project undertaken in the area. It served as one avenue for building community awareness and promoting the Bicentennial spirit. Compiling and transcribing oral histories on the educational system in Yellowstone County from the 1900-1920 era was completed. The project increased the availability of historical information on this period of Montana history and increased interest in local history.

### **"Soaring Spirits"—Great Falls**

MBA 212

ARBA 76-19-2006

Sponsor: Montana Deaconess Hospital

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

This project brought quality television programming to hospitalized children by using carefully selected, non-commercial programs for bedside teaching and/or diversion during the recuperative period; redirected the attention of youthful patients away from the traumas of hospital environment; directed the attention of young patients toward meaningful, pleasurable and educational time consumers; utilized specially selected program topics to widen youthful horizons; and captured interest in specialized subjects. Funds were also used to expand the tape library and establish a permanent library where tapes could be made and sent to other locations.

### **Bicentennial Celebration—Statewide**

MBA 213

ARBA 76-19-3872

Sponsor: Montana Council Boy Scouts of America

Grant Award: \$ 8,000

This statewide project involved 18,000 scouts in Montana in at least two Bicentennial projects from August 13, 1975 to August 13, 1976. A Bicentennial camp-o-all June 11-13, 1976 was attended by thousands of scouts. Spirit of '76 campfires were also held in each community for the scouts.

### **Clark's Fork Valley Youth Project—Fromberg**

MBA 214

ARBA 76-19-3867

Sponsor: City of Fromberg

Grant Award: \$ 4,500

Supplies and materials, such as tables, kitchen chairs, and equipment were purchased for the interior of the building, which enabled the town of Fromberg to use this leased building for the various community projects and activities. The Clark's Fork Valley Youth Project attempted to provide positive and constructive work incentives and recreational alternatives for the young people of the valley. The center now also serves as a town cafe and recreation focus for the valley communities. The project coordinated other youth employment and recreational opportunities, such as work on a town park in Edgar; work with senior citizen groups; and work on civic projects.

**Playground/Park—Whitefish**

MBA 215

Sponsor: City of Whitefish

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The city of Whitefish built a playground/park area for the community's children. Bicentennial funds were used to purchase equipment such as a shelter for sand boxes and picnic tables. The park area provides a playground for the children of Whitefish for years to come.

**High School Bicentennial Celebration—Darby**

MBA 216

Sponsor: Darby High School Board

Grant Award: \$ 700

This project had two main goals: a "Bicentennial Commencement" and an addition to the "Darby El Capitan," the high school annual. The addition to the annual included a history of the area forefathers and interesting statistics and photos. This addition to the annual evidenced a permanent record of stories and history of the area. Both projects provided a chance for the high school students to get involved in worthwhile Bicentennial projects.

**"Not in Precious Metals Alone:****A Manuscript History of Montana"—Statewide**

MBA 219

ARBA 76-19-3946

Sponsor: Montana Historical Society

Grant Award: \$ 10,000

The Montana Historical Society published a massive manuscript history of Montana drawn almost entirely from unpublished manuscripts, diaries, letters and reminiscences in the Society's archival collections. The volume celebrated two milestones: a century of publishing by the Historical Society and the Bicentennial of the nation. The book is available through the Montana Historical Society.

**Stagecoach Renovation/Freedom Train Promotion—Billings**

MBA 220

ARBA 76-19-3689

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

Project funds were used to repair the Yellowstone County official stagecoach and tackle. The stagecoach traveled over 3000 miles to and from county fairs during 1975 and served as an information booth for the Bicentennial and a ticket registration booth for the Freedom Train. The project uniquely tied the old west culture in with our 200th birthday.

**Jail Restoration—Saco**

MBA 222

Sponsor: Saco Garden Club

Grant Award: \$ 500

Bicentennial funds were used to help restore the interior of the Saco jail, which had already been moved to its new site. Now preserved, the building serves as a museum to display many articles and relics of the local area. The jail dates back to the 1890's and is now next to the one-room country school where Chet Huntley began his education. The school has also been preserved and serves as a museum.



**Entrance Beautification—Great Falls**

MBA 224

Sponsor: City of Great Falls and The Cascade County Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The project objective was to beautify the principal and most heavily used entrance to the city of Great Falls. Financial assistance was required for the purchase of equipment, shrubbery, bricks and rocks for the landscaping and some fertilizer, sprinkler heads, pipes and hoses.

**Ten-State Juried Art Show—Great Falls**

MBA 225

Sponsor: Great Falls Chapter Montana Institute of the Arts

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

A 10-state juried art show, "Columbia and Missouri Rivers Re-Explored," opened to artists-craftsmen from Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The exhibition displayed creative efforts of artists, craftsmen and designers represented in the states explored by the Lewis and Clark expedition. The exhibit was juried by jurors from outside the 10-state region and was scheduled from April 6 to May 14, 1976 at the C. M. Russell Museum, Great Falls.

**Community Park & Recreation Complex—Ulm**

MBA 226

Sponsor: Cascade County Park Board

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

This project established recreational facilities in an area where none had previously existed. These included a baseball-football field, ¼ mile track, tennis court, roller and ice rink, and playground equipment. Bicentennial funds were used to help with construction and purchase of equipment.

**Mary Fields Marker—Ulm**

MBA 227

Sponsor: Town of Cascade

Grant Award: \$ 100

Bicentennial funds were used to improve the gravesite of Mary Fields, historical figure of the mid 1800's. Mary Fields was an early settler who was black. Improvement included a base of concrete with a granite marker erected on it. The grave was previously unmarked.

**Gibson Park Renovation—Great Falls**

MBA 228

Sponsor: City of Great Falls

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

Gibson Park was the most historically significant park in the city and was named after the founder and first mayor, Paris Gibson. The project improved existing facilities and added new attractions including a parking lot and a remodeled bandshell as well as playground construction.

**Rodeo and Celebration—Rocky Boy Reservation**

MBA 229

ARBA 76-19-3687

Sponsor: Rocky Boy Rodeo Club

Grant Award: \$ 3,600

The purpose of this project was to pay tribute to the history of the Chippewa-Cree Tribes through a celebration and rodeo. This was the official opening of the Bicentennial celebration on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation. The Rocky Boy Rodeo and celebration had the following objectives: 1) to promote the spirit of competitiveness among young Indian people; 2) to facilitate the communication between young and old Indians through cultural activities; 3) to promote better understanding and cooperation among young people of various tribes; and, 4) to promote and revive the horsemanship that existed in the past.

**Gravesite Development—Rocky Boy Reservation**

MBA 230

ARBA 76-19-3871

Sponsor: Rocky Boy Indian Reservation School

Grant Award: \$ 500

Funds were used to purchase supplies to develop the gravesite of Rocky Boy, founder of the reservation. The site was renovated and road markers placed on the route to the site. Significant historical information is on display at the site.

**"States of the Union"—Statewide**

MBA 231

Sponsor: KUFM Radio

Grant Award: \$ 650

National Public Radio scheduled a series of Bicentennial programs. Member stations each produced a one hour program devoted to each state. KUFM Radio was the only NPR affiliate in Montana producing the Montana program. The program covered cultural and social aspects of Montana as well as its history. After the program was broadcast in April, 1976, it was made available to other organizations, such as schools and service clubs.

**Montana Bicentennial Education Booklet—Statewide**

MBA 232

ARBA 76-19-3736

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

An educational handbook for use by teachers in the elementary and secondary school systems in Montana was published to promote Bicentennial programs in their classes. The book focused on the Bicentennial and its relevance to Montana. This project was necessary due to the increasing number of requests from schools for a book of this nature. Many other states had completed similar projects. Several thousand of these booklets were printed for widespread disbursement. The educational booklet was generously illustrated by famed cartoonist, Stan Lynde, creator of the cartoon strip, Rick O'Shay.



### **Bicentennial Communications Network II—Statewide**

MBA 233

ARBA 76-19-3942

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 18,000

An intern was hired for each of Montana's two congressional districts to work with the counties in that district. The interns provided much needed contact with the more than 3,000 local volunteers in Montana, as well as the numerous business and government Bicentennial programs being developed. The interns verified all projects being fed into BIMONT, a computerized calendar system that delineated the thousands of projects being planned for the Bicentennial.

### **Montana Bicentennial Modular Multimedia Displays—Statewide**

MBA 234

ARBA 76-19-3748

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 12,000

Local county committees and other organizations planning for the Bicentennial early on expressed a need for some sort of traveling Bicentennial display suitable for fairs and other community activities. The MBA designed and constructed several mobile displays replete with automatic slide show. These displays were stationed in various cities across the state and each used extensively in the surrounding counties.

### **Elementary School Playground Improvement—Bozeman**

MBA 236

Sponsor: Gallatin Gateway School District #35

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The school district acquired land adjacent to school property for community park purposes and to develop land suitable for summer recreation programs. Bicentennial funds were used to install nets and anchors for hard surface games.

### **Pictorial Review of Northcentral Montana—Havre**

MBA 237

ARBA 76-19-4298

Sponsor: Hill County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 1,100

Sponsor used funds to catalog and display a regional pictorial review of photographs of the period from 1880 to 1930. The project provided a graphic history of the northcentral region of Montana. A local resident donated the collection to a local library and funds were then used to pay a professional to catalog the pictures and purchase equipment to display it. The pictures featured homesteading, early settlers and the building of the railroad in the area, as well as pictures of the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation, Fort Assinniboine and other early towns in Montana.

### **Memorial Library—Havre**

MBA 238

Sponsor: Hill County Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Memorial Library was the long-awaited dream of many of the residents of Hill County. Previously there were two libraries, one city and one county, duplicating services and neither satisfying the full needs of the community. The new library is a beautiful and fitting memorial to the Bicentennial in Hill County.

**Helena Symphony Chorale and Music—Helena**

MBA 240

Sponsor: Helena Symphony Society

Grant Award: \$ 425

The Helena Symphony included choral performances in a musical series stressing American and patriotic music during the Bicentennial year.

**Mountain View School Sportsvan—Statewide**

MBA 239

ARBA 76-19-2039

Sponsor: Mountain View School

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

Grant funds were used to purchase a 12-passenger van for the off-campus program of the Mountain View School for delinquent girls. This off-campus activity is important in the rehabilitation of these girls from largely low income minority homes.

**Historic, Environmental & Cultural Awareness Program—Big Horn County**

MBA 241

ARBA 76-19-2007

Sponsor: Big Horn County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

The sponsor purchased a wide variety of backpacking equipment for use by all the youth groups in Big Horn county. Many youth groups made overnight tours retracing historic trails in the area and historic markers were developed and placed at sites of historic interest. After the Bicentennial era, the equipment was made available to all interested youth-oriented groups.

**Art Center and Gallery—Chester**

MBA 242

Sponsor: Liberty County Arts Council

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Council remodeled a mission church built in 1909 and used until 1961 into an Art Center and Gallery. The objectives of the project were to provide a center for learning and appreciation of all art forms—needle arts, folk arts, fine arts; to provide a facility for stay-home recreation; and to fill a need for the enrichment of personal lives through creative visual arts.

**Community Civic Center—Park City**

MBA 243

ARBA 76-19-2005

Sponsor: Legion Post 100

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Community Civic Center was too small and outdated, and funds were needed to enlarge and expand the facility to accommodate larger gatherings. Expansion included doubling the kitchen size and meeting area. The hall is used by virtually every civic group in the community.



**Heritage Museum—Libby**

MBA 245

ARBA 76-19-4362

Sponsor: Museum Inc.

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The overall project included the development of a museum in Libby to display a number of historical collections from the area. The museum was an important addition to the county and is supported by a ½ mill levy from the county.

**Union Hall Renovation—Basin**

MBA 246

ARBA 76-19-5901

Sponsor: Basin Community Action League

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Bicentennial funds were used to help renovate the Miners Union Hall in Basin. Grant covered the costs of painting the building, refinishing the floors, fixing the roof and replacing broken windows. The building is now being used as a community center for this small Montana community.

**Microfilm Library of Old Newspapers of Fergus County—Lewistown**

MBA 247

ARBA 76-19-4297

Sponsor: Fergus County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 2,250

The sponsor used funds to microfilm old newspapers from the central Montana area. Also, a steel microfilm cabinet was purchased to properly store the microfilm. The project allows the Lewistown Public Library to preserve some of its history and provides access by any interested person to these previously inaccessible newspaper collections.

**Wading Pool Fence—Hysham**

MBA 249

Sponsor: Treasure County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 153

Bicentennial funds were used to build a fence around the wading pool. This added feature improved the appearance of the area and helped protect the children using the pool.

**Lewis and Clark Memorial Dedication—Fort Benton**

MBA 250

Sponsor: Fort Benton Community Improvement Association

Grant Award: \$ 4,000

The Lewis and Clark Memorial at Fort Benton was the official State of Montana memorial to the Lewis and Clark expedition. Over \$400,000 was raised for the erection of the state monument, and these additional funds were needed to perform the official dedication. The celebration was a three-day affair climaxing on June 13, 1976, with the unveiling of the Lewis and Clark statue sculpted by famous western artist, Bob Scriver.

**"Your Health" Radio Series--Statewide**

MBA 254

ARBA 76-19-4556

Sponsor: Department of Health and Environmental Sciences

Grant Award: \$ 1,400

The Health Department produced and distributed to all interested radio stations free of charge a weekly five-minute program to inform Montanans on health and environmental-related subjects. Bicentennial funds were used to help purchase the necessary equipment and supplies. The 52 programs ran through June 30, 1977 via public service broadcasting.

**Blackfeet Indian Culture in Motion--Browning**

MBA 255

ARBA 76-19-2004

Sponsor: Browning Public Schools

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The project allowed some youths of the Blackfeet Reservation to travel throughout Montana during the Bicentennial year performing ceremonial and religious dancing, singing, and drumming. This project directly affected a sizeable number of Native American youths as well as the many people who saw this Native American festival throughout the state. Funds were used primarily to defray travel expenses.

**Reservation-Wide Pow-Wow--Ft. Peck Reservation**

MBA 258

ARBA 76-19-4584

Sponsor: Fort Peck Planning Project

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

This project not only allowed Native Americans to participate in the nation's Bicentennial activities, but also allowed for the continued development of indigenous cultural activities by the younger Indian generation on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. There were six pow-wows conducted throughout the Reservation and funds were divided equally among the six communities on the Reservation. Bicentennial funds were used to purchase food stuffs for the participants and visitors; advertising; contest prizes and awards.

**Laubach Reading Workshops--Bozeman**

MBS 259

Sponsor: Volunteer Adult Literary Training

Grant Award: \$ 1,832

Three Basic Laubach Workshops were held for the purpose of training volunteer tutors to teach reading to non-reading or slow reading adults. The workshops were held in Billings, November 7, 8, 1975, Missoula, March 5, 6, 1976 and Helena, May 7, 8, 1976.

A fourth workshop was held April 23, 24 in Kalispell as a result of great interest in the Laubach Reading Method.

From the four Basic Laubach Workshops held, the following results and goals were reached:

1. 78 tutors were trained to teach reading on a one-to-one basis.
2. 25 tutors have expressed interest in teaching reading in the future.



**Oral History—Twin Bridges**

MBA 262

Sponsor: Twin Bridges Public Library

Grant Award: \$ 185

The Library Board purchased a recorder and tapes and a local group in the community interviewed the oldtimers of the area and recorded their reminiscences. The Library Board then edited and bound a written record of the history. Both the tapes and written history are housed in the public library. Bicentennial funds were used to help purchase necessary materials for the interviews and recordings.

**Historical Restoration—Virginia City**

MBA 265

Sponsor: Historic Landmark Society of Montana

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Bicentennial funds were used to repair and renovate the Montana Post building to make the building sound again and protect its valuable contents from damage, as well as to enhance its overall historical value. Repairs included re-roofing the building, repairing front windows and construction of a small vestibule. The building was initially built in 1863 and served as home for Montana's first newspaper.

**Montana's Entertainment, Trade & Recreation Arena—Billings**

MBA 266

Sponsor: Yellowstone County

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

M.E.T.R.A. needed to establish a large room that could be divided for use as a meeting room, reception area for smaller dinners and luncheons as well as other uses. Bicentennial funds were needed to help complete the room in this newest allpurpose convention and activity center in Montana.

**200 Years of American Art History—Bozeman**

MBA 268

Sponsor: School of Art—Montana State University

Grant Award: \$ 525

MSU purchased slides of American art works to supplement its collection in the Montana State University Creative Arts Slide Library. Grant also required the showing of the slides at various public schools and civic groups in the county free of charge.

**Film: "Montana Grain Story"—Statewide**

MBA 269

ARBA 76-19-5761

Sponsors: Wheat Research and Marketing Committee and MBA

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The sponsors produced a film on the role of agriculture, particularly grain, in the development of Montana, with special emphasis on the future of the world's hungry people. Montana's heritage is tightly bound to the land and the future development of the state is to a great extent dependent upon the strength of agriculture. This film provides an indepth understanding of the role of agriculture in Montana's past and future.

### **The Montana Bicentennial Film Festival—Statewide**

MBA 272

ARBA 76-19-5218

Sponsor: M.B.A.

Grant Award: \$ 2,000

The Montana Bicentennial Administration played a key role in the production of several motion pictures which were produced to commemorate our nation's 200th birthday. Two of these films, **Red Sunday** and **A Walk in the Shadows**, were included in a two-hour Bicentennial Film Festival which toured junior and senior high schools throughout western Montana during April, May and June of 1976.

The Montana Bicentennial Film Festival In The Schools was a self-perpetuating program designed to: (1) introduce Montana's historical Bicentennial films to students throughout the state and (2) provide a thought-provoking two-hour school assembly concerned with the development of the frontier and the evaluation and renewal of America's strongest ideals.

### **"Countdown '76"—Billings**

MBA 274

Sponsor: Z Club at Billings Senior High School

Grant Award: \$ 300

Project provided the entire student body of 2,300 an opportunity to select, rehearse, and perform skits from our American heritage. It also provided the community and school an opportunity to experience scenes from American history and literature, and furnished students of various disciplines and ethnic backgrounds a chance to become more closely acquainted. Bicentennial funds were used to purchase costuming for the show.

### **Development of Community Park—Paradise**

MBA 275

Sponsor: Paradise Bicentennial and Development Committee

Grant Award: \$ 825

Grant funds provided a recreational area for the community and tourists. Financial assistance was needed to help purchase a sprinkler system and fountain. Sponsors also provided tables, benches, playground equipment, and flowers.

### **Oral History of Potomac Valley—Potomac**

MBA 276

Sponsor: School-Community Council, School District #11

Grant Award: \$ 1,700

Principal objective of this project was to collect the reminiscences of many of the residents of the Potomac Valley who, along with their antecedents, were instrumental in the development of the area. These were collected on tape, transcribed, and published. In addition, the tapes and copies of the transcriptions were donated to the Archives of the University of Montana for their permanent collection. Funds were used to help defray costs of supplies, equipment and travel.



**Montana History Text/Workbook—Statewide**

MBA 277

ARBA 76-19-2222

Sponsor: Lolo Public School, District No. 7

Grant Award: \$ 9,000

As Montana history is a required subject and previously there was no textbook specifically developed for the junior high level, the Lolo school developed and marketed a textbook. The book was researched, developed, edited, produced and marketed by the school. A regionalized workbook was coordinated with the basic text. All revenues from the sale of the textbooks and workbooks continue to go into a fund to permit the project to expand.

**Lewis and Clark Memorial Site—Fort Benton**

MBA 280

Sponsor: Fort Benton Community Improvement Association

Grant Award: \$ 3,900

This community action group erected a heroic-sized bronze statue sculpted by Bob Scriver depicting Lewis, Clark and Sacajawea on the levee near the Missouri River. Financial aid was needed to construct a circular concrete base approximately sixty feet in diameter with a ramp, lighting and flag poles.

**Fort Connah Restoration—St. Ignatius**

MBS 281

Sponsor: Fort Connah Restoration Society

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The restoration of the fort filled an existing gap in preservation of the history of the Rocky Mountain fur trade in western Montana and the activities of the Hudson Bay Co. in this area. Prior to this grant, the only recognition of the fort complex was a highway marker on U.S. 93. The project goal was to preserve and restore the original building and ultimately reconstruct replicas of the other buildings in the fort complex as it existed in 1847. The private cemetery containing the grave of Angus McDonald is to be restored and made a part of this ongoing project.

**U.S.S. Helena Memorial—Helena**

MBA 283

Sponsor: Navy League of the United States

Helena Navy League Chapter

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The U.S. Navy gave Montana a propellor, anchor and chain from the U.S.S. Helena CA-75 for a memorial to the three U.S.S. Helena cruisers that saw much action over a span of 80 years. Sponsors erected a memorial near the Lewis and Clark County Library with a dedication and unveiling ceremony in Sept. 1977.

**Montana Public Library Film Purchase—Helena**

MBA 284

ARBA 76-19-4582

Sponsor: Montana State Library

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

Bicentennial funds were used to purchase a series of historical films by the Montana State Library, which then offered them to any local public library throughout the state for use. The collection is housed in the Montana State Library. Films are provided free of charge.

**Shakespeare in the Parks—Statewide**

MBA 285

ARBA 76-19-2223

Sponsor: Montana State University Department of English and Theatre Arts

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

Funds were used for travel by the theatre arts group at Montana State University to bring Shakespeare's **Twelfth Night** and Shaw's **The Devil's Disciple** to communities within Montana. Funds made it possible for the theatre group to perform 32 times in 26 different communities, most of them small or rural areas which had no theater facilities.

**Bicentennial Park—Culbertson**

MBA 287

Sponsor: City of Culbertson

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

The Bicentennial Park is about four acres in size. The camping space held about eight camping units and the city expanded the facilities to include a washroom, picnic area, playground and more room for camping.

**Montana Bicentennial Trade Showcase '76—Billings**

MBA 289

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 2,500

Bicentennial funds helped defray the costs of printing, postage and telephoning incurred in the promotion of the Montana Trade Showcase '76. The grant also provided Bicentennial entertainment by ethnic groups at the convention.

**Donovan Park-Community Hall & Playground—Great Falls**

MBA 290

Sponsor: Cascade County Park Board

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Bicentennial funds helped to finish the Community Hall and complete the playground, both of which are now used year-round by community members for weddings, reunions, voting, meetings, youth programs, and more.

**Blackfeet Tipi Project—Browning**

MBA 291

Sponsor: Blackfeet Tribe

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

The Blackfeet Tribe sponsored a class in tipi-making to educate and involve young tribal members in the rediscovery and preservation of their remarkable heritage by learning to make tipis.

**Bicentennial Drama Festival—Helena**

MBA 292

Sponsor: Broadwater Productions, Inc.

Grant Award: \$ 3,000

Broadwater Productions, Inc., produced a special salute to the Bicentennial through a dramatic series that included four plays. Prices for children and senior citizens were reduced by fifty percent for all Sunday performances as a special feature. The Bicentennial grant helped establish this permanent, non-profit theatre company in the capital city.



**Touring Production of "Valley Forge"—Statewide**

MBA 293

ARBA 76-19-4591/76-19-2281

Sponsor: University of Montana/Montana Repertory Theater

Grant Award: \$ 3,885

This grant allowed the Montana Repertory Theater to bring the Bicentennial play, **Valley Forge**, to a number of smaller communities which would not have otherwise been able to have the Repertory Theater in their area.

**Improvement of Playground—Thompson Falls**

MBA 294

Sponsor: Thompson Falls School District #2

Grant Award: \$ 750

This project provided equipment promoting physical fitness and gave numerous children the opportunity to participate in playground activities previously restricted due to the lack of equipment.

**Historical Markers and Rehabilitation of Boothill Cemetery—Billings**

MBA 295

Sponsor: Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 250

In cooperation with the Highway Department and Billings Park Service, the project identified and marked historic locations to bring to the attention of the general public the importance and relevance of these sites and also to further improve and preserve the Boothill Cemetery.

**Official Statewide Bicentennial Festival**

MBA 296

Sponsor: Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The official statewide Bicentennial Festival was held in Helena May 8-15, 1976. Citizens from across Montana enjoyed the weeklong festivities that included a gala ball, parades, a symphony concert, ecumenical church services, tours, style shows, rodeo, antique show, displays, Indian pageant, plays, square dancing, and more.

**Bicentennial Immunization Project II—Statewide**

MBA 297

ARBA 76-19-5314

Sponsor: Montana Department of Health

Grant Award: \$ 8,000

The statewide immunization program "Every Child by '76" begun in 1975 was continued into 1977 to insure even greater success in immunizing our state's young people.

**City Street Beautification—Laurel**

MBA 299

Sponsor: City of Laurel and Laurel Women's Club

Grant Award: \$ 750

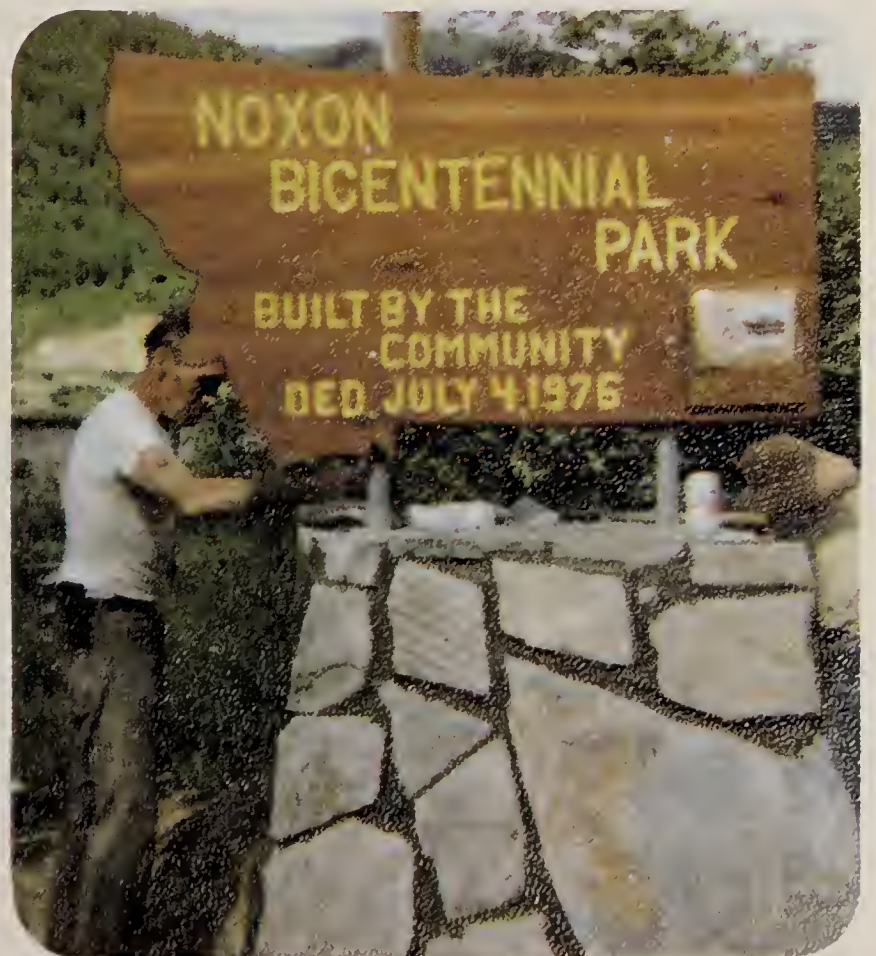
Trees were planted in downtown Laurel, and the City Hall and Library facades were improved.







**BICENTENNIAL  
COLOR PHOTO ALBUM — 1976**





**Cots for Kids—Billings**

MBA 302

Sponsor: Christian Home Missions

Grant Award: \$ 450

Cots were purchased to provide more healthful sleeping conditions and a better sense of security for pre-school day-care children who were previously sleeping on the floor.

**Crow Indian Celebration & Rodeo—Big Horn**

MBA 304

ARBA 76-19-2667/76-19-5313

Sponsor: Crow Tribal Council

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The Crow Tribe sponsored a week-long Crow Celebration and Rodeo which included ceremonials, social dances and events, Indian games and sports, horsemanship, and other events. The main objectives of the inter-tribal project were to encourage the preservation of traditions now fast disappearing and to promote better understanding and cooperation among the tribes.

**Greenhouse and Environmental Study Project—Nashua**

MBA 305

Sponsor: Nashua Public Schools District 13 & 13E

Grant Award: \$ 750

A greenhouse was attached to the present physical plant of the school to supply classes with consumable materials. The attachment required remodeling of the present structure and now provides students with an indoor botanical study site.

**Bicentennial Stained Glass Window—Philipsburg**

MBA 306

Sponsor: Granite County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 225

A beautiful stained glass window commemorating the Bicentennial was placed above the main entrance to the Granite County Courthouse in Philipsburg. The design featured an eagle, the Great Seal of the State of Montana, the twin smoke stacks of the county's bi-metallic mill, and a rainbow.

**Rustic Street Signs—Philipsburg**

MBA 308

Sponsor: Granite County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 400

Rustic wooden route signs on treated wooden poles were installed on main and secondary streets in Philipsburg and Drummond. All labor was donated by the Granite High School Shop Class and the Granite County Bicentennial Committee.

**Marion Bicentennial Park—Marion**

MBA 309

Sponsor: Flathead County School District #54

Grant Award: \$ 700

A park was constructed in Marion where previously none had existed. Facilities for tennis, volleyball, basketball, and baseball were constructed in the park.



### **Choral Montage of American History—Kalispell**

MBA 310

Sponsor: Flathead Valley Community College

Grant Award: \$ \$350

Flathead Valley Community College sponsored a Bicentennial chorus which presented Bicentennial music to the community through the Bicentennial summer.

### **“Operation Patriotism”—Statewide**

MBA 313

Sponsor: Malmstrom Air Force Base

Grant Award: \$ 700

“Operation Patriotism” promoted patriotism across the state through a very impressive traveling presentation of historic flags used during the 1700’s to 1800’s in addition to state flag and the current Old Glory.

### **Bicentennial Museum Project—Conrad**

MBA 317

Sponsor: Pondera County Commissioners

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

A coordinated countywide effort revitalized interest in the Pondera County Bicentennial Museum and the county’s heritage by organizing a systematic search to locate exhibits of historical significance for the public’s viewing and appreciation.

### **Cultural Center—Butte**

MBA 322

ARBA 76-19-7467

Sponsor: Silver Bow Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 5,000

The historic Clark Mansion was purchased to house a cultural arts center for Butte. The building represents the finest in turn-of-the-century architecture.

### **4th of July Celebration—Butte**

MBA 323

ARBA 76-19-5220

Sponsor: Butte-Silver Bow Bicentennial Commission

Grant Award: \$ 1,000

Bicentennial funds were used to print 8,000 promotional and historical brochures. The brochures were distributed free of charge throughout southwestern Montana to promote the annual 4th of July celebration. The brochures contained a concise history of the Butte area, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1976.

### **Newspaper Project—Hysham**

MBA 333

Sponsor: Hysham Lions Club

Grant Award: \$ 250

As there is no public library or museum in the county, the project’s objective was to preserve the area’s history by microfilming past and future issues of the local newspaper.

### **Centennial Victory Dance Celebration—Northern Cheyenne Reservation**

MBA 336

ARBA 76-19-5460

Sponsor: Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council

Grant Award: \$

The centennial of the great Indian victory over Custer was celebrated along with a special service for those who died on both sides of the conflict. A rodeo and pow-wow were part of the festivities June 25-27, 1976.

### **"Montana Wilderness Slide Show"—Statewide**

MBA 338

ARBA 76-19-5760

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 1,500

A traveling slide show based on the Montana wilderness, particularly Glacier National Park, was shown free of charge at hospitals, correctional facilities, state institutions and senior citizen centers.

The presentation consisted of a one-hour show synchronized with classical music and developed by Tom McBride, a noted photographer in the northwest.

### **Re-enactment of Historic Boat Trek—Statewide**

MBA 339

ARBA 76-19-7468

Sponsors: MBA and Custer County Bicentennial Committee

Grant Award: \$ 6,000

On May 29, 1976, an accurate replica of the fur boat, Wan-I-Gan, left Miles City, Montana on a 1,900-mile journey down the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers to St. Louis. The journey recreated the long trips made by the early fur trappers which were instrumental in opening up Montana to early settlers. The men making the trip were dressed as oldtime rivermen and the boat was laden with furs and pelts. On the voyage, the boat stopped at many locations where a tipi was erected and authentic demonstrations of the trappers' trade were witnessed by more than 100,000 spectators.

### **"Montana's Involvement in the Bicentennial—A Perspective"—Statewide**

MBA 340

ARBA 76-19-7469

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 15,925

Grant funds were used to research, write, edit and publish this document which serves as both a final report on the Bicentennial activities in Montana and a historical reference tool. Copies are available through the Montana Historical Society. John Barrett, former MBA Administrator, researched, edited and wrote this book on the Bicentennial.

### **Official July 4th Celebration—Helena**

MBA 341

Sponsor: Lewis and Clark County Bicentennial Committee.

Grant Award: \$ 1,300

Funds were used to help develop and promote the official 4th of July celebration in the state capital. The eventful day included activities ranging from parades to fireworks, from a demolition derby to a non-denominational church service in the park.



**"Native Plants and Early Peoples"—Statewide**

MBA 342

ARBA 76-19-7531

Sponsor: MBA

Grant Award: \$ 3,575

The publication **Native Plants and Early Peoples** is a study of Montana plants and their religious, medicinal and dietetic significance to early Montana Indians and pioneers. It was perhaps one of the most important projects of our Bicentennial. 3,000 copies in paperback were published by the MBA and are now being sold by the Montana Historical Society. Proceeds from the sale of the books are earmarked for future research in Montana ethnobotany or for the re-publication of the book.

## **Official Montana Bicentennial Commemorative Items**

Funding for the administration of the MBA was secured from ARBA, private donations, the State of Montana and revenues from the sale of commemorative items. The Advisory Council recommended and the MBA adopted a policy of using only the highest quality souvenirs for the commemoration to avoid "commercializing" the occasion too much. A balance was sought between those who felt that "any selling" would lessen the dignity of the event and those who felt that Americans historically demand certain remembrances from such historic occasions.

The MBA ultimately produced several commemorative items including the following:

### **SERIES OF FOUR COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLIONS**

The MBA, in concert with Roche Jaune, Inc., of Kalispell, designed and minted a series of four historically oriented medals in both sterling silver and copper. The series featured historic chapters from our past such as the Native American culture, the Lewis and Clark Adventure, the Fur Trade, the Gold seekers, the cattlemen, the sod busters and finally, the basis for all our benefits here in the Big Sky country—the land. The copper medals sold individually for \$5 each. The silver were priced at \$20 per medal. A special limited edition of 1500 sets of silver numbered sets were produced for \$100 a set.

### **LOGO PINS, KEY CHAINS AND NECKLACES**

The official MBA logo, as seen on page 7 of this book, was reproduced in seven color enamel as a tie tac, pin, key chain and necklace. These sold for \$2 each and over 50,000 were disseminated throughout the state.

### **COMMEMORATIVE CACHETED ENVELOPE SERIES AND SPECIAL CAMP BAKER CACHET**

Between 1974 and 1976 a series of ten multicolored envelopes was released, each bearing an old (and appropriate) commemorative postage stamp, a different town postmark and the distinctive official Montana logo. From the historical perspective of both Montana and United States, more appropriate cachet themes could not have been selected: the Louisiana Purchase and its exploration by Lewis & Clark; the military-Indian conflicts, accentuated by General Nelson Miles, Chief Joseph and the Custer Battle Centennial; mining activities and territorial politics in the Treasure State; the Gallatin Country with its gateway to Yellowstone National Park and headwaters of the Missouri River; ranching and the "Cowboy Capital of the World"; homesteading with the honyockers; favorite son and cowboy artist C.M. Russell along with his wife, Nancy. An eleventh "special" cachet was issued to honor one of central Montana's early "forts" at Camp Baker. The envelopes are indeed special for they each bear a Camp Baker postmark, applied with the ORIGINAL HAND-CANCELLING DEVICE.

The series sold for \$10 and the special Camp Baker for \$5.

### **FLAGS**

Both miniature and three by five foot logo flags were produced for the commemoration. The MBA flag was flown in almost every Montana city during the celebration.

Bumper Stickers, decals, T-shirts and other minor items were produced on a small scale to augment the revenues secured by the major commemorative items.

These commemorative items will remain lasting contributions to the Bicentennial celebration. These commemoratives will be saved, savored and sought after for years to come. Each time one appears it will serve to remind people of the "Big Doin's" in Montana in 1976!



## Montana Bicentennial Activities of National Significance

**Historical Pageant and Statue Dedication in Fort Benton:** The pageant on June 6, 1976 depicted the singularly rich history of the beautiful Missouri River town of Fort Benton, which figured most importantly in the opening of the west to white settlement. A heroic size statue of Lewis, Clark and Sacajawea by the nationally known western artist Bob Sriver was dedicated on June 13, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Community Improvement Association, Fort Benton.

**Custer Battle Centennial Observance in Crow Agency:** The 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn was observed with a flag-raising ceremony at the Custer Battlefield Cemetery and a memorial service for deceased veterans of all U.S. wars, June 24-25, 1976.

**Bikecentennial '76:** Bikecentennial '76 is an organization which developed the Nation's first trans-continental bicycle trail. This Montana-originated project incorporated a number of short tours on sections of the trail as well as a 76-day trans-U.S. tour with housing, food, and support services for riders.

**Sponsor:** Bikecentennial '76, Missoula.

**Campfire History Programs in Glacier National Park:** Weekly programs relating early Park history to today and the future were presented in 9 park amphitheatres and campfire circles from June 19 to September 4, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Supt. of Glacier National Park, National Park Service, West Glacier.

**Blackfeet Culture:** Audio-visual living history demonstrations and exhibits of Blackfeet culture were held in Glacier Park's St. Mary Visitor Center adjacent to the Reservation from July 1 to August 22, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Supt. of Glacier National Park, National Park Service, St. Mary.

**Helena to Washington D.C. Bicycle Trek:** A grandfather-grandson team peddled from Montana to Washington D.C. during the summer of '76 to commemorate the Bicentennial as well as to promote bicycling as a means to good physical fitness.

**Sponsor:** MBA and Shorty Huber and Dave Maynard.

**Yellowstone Journey:** A replica of a keelboat traveled down the 19th century fur trade route of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers to St. Louis. The boat departed from Miles City, Montana, on May 29, 1975 and stopped at rivertowns along the way. Commemorative pelts and medallions were traded enroute for greenbacks, and the nights were filled with tall tales and dancing fires.

**Sponsors:** MBA and Custer County Bicentennial Committee.

**Bicentennial Wagon Train:** Each state was provided a covered wagon for a pilgrimage to Pennsylvania. Montana's wagon journeyed from Bozeman to Fort Laramie, Wyoming. The wagon wintered there and then continued to St. Joseph, Missouri in the spring of 1976. The wagon traveled by boat to Pittsburgh and then on to Valley Forge.

**Sponsor:** State of Pennsylvania and MBA.

Numerous other activities received national recognition or were otherwise developed for a national audience or exposure, but space limitations disallow their inclusion in this report. Many of them are mentioned in the County Activities or the local grants sections of this book.

## Montana Bicentennial Activities of Statewide Significance

**State Fair in Great Falls:** Parades, music, drama, livestock competitions, carnivals, rodeo; July 31-August 7, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Cascade County Bicentennial Committee

**Bicentennial Horse Shows in Miles City:** Appaloosa, quarter horse, and thoroughbred shows; September 13-14, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Custer County Bicentennial Committee

**Crow Bicentennial Days '76:** A one-week celebration hosted by the Crow Reservation and participated in by many Native Americans; August 19-23, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Crow Tribe

**Dedication of Montana's Bicentennial Site** at the Missouri River Headwaters Park, selected through a statewide competition to receive state grant monies for Park improvements. Ceremony and festival on July 25, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee

**Statewide Bicentennial Festival in Helena:** Participation by Bicentennial Committees and organizations throughout the state. Vigilante Day Parade, Bicentennial Ball, Band Show, Fiddlers Jamboree, Antique Show, Square Dancing, Downtown Heritage Tours. May 8-15, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Lewis & Clark County Bicentennial Committee

**Bicentennial Square Dance Festival:** Kalispell hosted a 3-day state square dance festival July 2-4, 1976.

**Sponsor:** Montana Bicentennial Square Dance Committee

**Rick O'Shay Costume Balls:** Red Lodge hosts this annual ball in October.

**Sponsor:** Carbon County Bicentennial Committee

**Montana Bicentennial Modular Multi-Media Displays:** The Montana Bicentennial Administration placed displays in Scobey, Billings, Butte, Helena, Great Falls, and Kalispell which helped to identify and define the Bicentennial. They were available for use at public gatherings and events.

**Sponsor:** Montana Bicentennial Administration

**Native Plants and Early People Book:** A book on Native Americans' medicinal, religious, and cultural uses of indigenous Montana plants was researched and published in paperback book form in the summer of '76.

**Sponsor:** Montana Bicentennial Administration

**Statewide Bicentennial Communications Network:** Development of a statewide Bicentennial Network between the MBA and the 56 County Commissions facilitated information-gathering activities of the Bicentennial in Montana and helped develop a Master Calendar of Events.

**Sponsor:** Montana Bicentennial Administration

**Thomas C. Power Manuscript Collection:** This project included the processing and organization of the Thomas C. Power manuscript collection and the preparation of a guide to the same. The collected personal and business records provide vital documentation about the Northwest frontier.

**Sponsor:** Montana Historical Society



**Montana Bicentennial Administration "Montana" Exhibit:** Exhibit in Capitol Rotunda contained a multi-media slide presentation, State Museum displays, and Bicentennial displays.

**Sponsor:** Montana Bicentennial Administration

**Bicentennial Library Project:** A matching grant was made to participating libraries in Montana for the purchase of history books.

**Sponsors:** Montana Bicentennial Administration and Montana State Library

**J.K. Ralston Film:** A 14-minute film was produced on the life, masterpieces and reminiscences of the great western artist, J.K. Ralston, who is living in Billings.

**Sponsor:** Yellowstone County Bicentennial Commission

**"Voices in Montana's Past":** Recollections of old timers were recorded, compiled, edited, duplicated, and offered free of charge to every radio station in Montana. There was a separate tape for each week of 1976.

**Sponsor:** The Fine Tuning Company

**Green Survival:** Montana was designated the first Green Survival state in the nation. Green Survival is a program concerned with our environment and emphasizes the vital role plants play in the ecosystem.

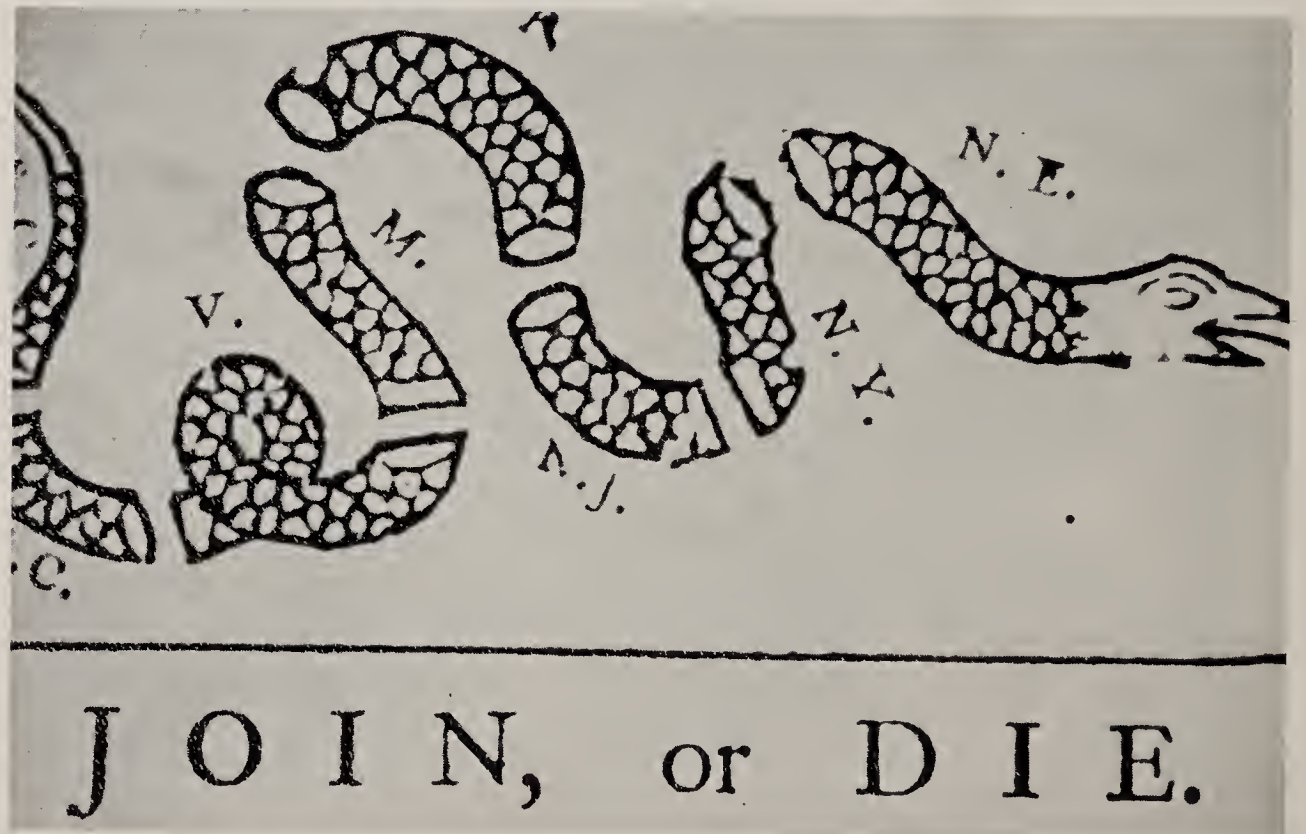
**Sponsor:** Montana Bicentennial Administration

A more complete reference for activities of statewide significance can be found in the County Reports or the local grants units of this book.

## LOCAL BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

Each of Montana's 56 counties participated in the celebration. Each brought to the commemoration its own special sense of history and drama. Every county truly made an impact on its citizens with localized projects that reflected their own personality. We Montanans made America's Bicentennial celebration our own, showcasing our Native American heritage, reliving our pioneer past and planning bold strides into the third century in the name of achieving a better "community."

This section is a "listing" of highlights of the activities in the 56 counties. Space limitations disallowed detailed review of the tremendous amount of local projects; however, complete information on local projects is available in the archives of the Montana Historical Museum in Helena. BIMONT, a computerized calendar system delineating each reported Bicentennial activity in the state, evidences 2,831 distinct projects and activities in Montana. The BIMONT Report book on these activities is also available in the Montana Historical Museum library in Helena.





## BEAVERHEAD COUNTY

A project of lasting significance was the establishment of permanent visitors' facilities, parking, site acquisition, building restoration and exhibits at the site of Montana's first Territorial capitol, Bannack, undertaken by the Beaverhead County Bicentennial Committee and the Bannack State Historical Monument Committee.

Several other projects of historical significance included the marking of the Lewis and Clark Trail through the county and the erection of appropriate signs; the restoration and erection of markers at Sacajawea Park; the restoration and marking of the route of the Nez Perce Indians before and after the Battle of the Big Hole; and, the preservation and restoration of the Orr Mansion belonging to a pioneer family in the county.

Residents of the area participated in many activities and events such as model-T races, crazy daze, filming projects, a children's theater, countywide history essay contest, wagon train, photography contest, school plays and many improvement projects which kept the Bicentennial spirit high throughout the celebration.

## BIG HORN COUNTY

1976 witnessed the Centennial observance of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, (Custer's last stand), with Russell Means and Oscar Bear Runner, Hal Stearns, many Cheyenne and Sioux, tourists, members of the Custer and Reno families, all participating in a peaceful commemoration.

Historic sites were marked, including "Father de Smet's 'Trinity' Tree," Lime Kiln and the Old Headgate. Historic displays appeared throughout the summer, such as the Victorian furniture display.

Local thespians produced several melodramas including "Calamity Jane," "The Chips Are Down," and "Deadwood Dick." Parades and festivals highlighted a year of excitement and community pride—the VFW and District High School Rodeos, a Bicentennial Festival in April, the First Annual Bob Boles Memorial Air Show, the Crow Indian Fair, a Chuckwagon harvest dinner, visiting plays, "The Devil's Disciple," "1776," and "Valley Forge."

The Fourth of July in Big Horn County began with a nonsectarian religious service at noon, old hymns and Bible readings. Hardin's bells joined in the nationwide bellringing at one o'clock. A family picnic in South Park, an afternoon of races and games, fireworks after dark and a melodrama closed out a memorable and beautiful day in Big Horn County.

Two publications were completed during the Bicentennial era: **Grass, Tipis, and Black Gold** by Eloise Pease, Torrey and Adrienne Johnson, and Richard Fox, Jr., and **Looking Back**, a hardcover collection of nearly 200 old timers' short biographies, as well as other articles.

Projects of ongoing significance included the purchase of backpacking equipment which is now being loaned to youth groups, and a Bicentennial garden display on the courthouse grounds.

## BLAINE COUNTY

Area residents participated in many activities including the Chinook music festival; dedication of a new library; early toys display; painting of fire hydrants; and a fossil display.

Projects of historical and lasting significance included the publication of **Great Blaine**, an anthology celebrating the people and places in the county; a photographic



Balloon at the First Annual  
Bob Boles Memorial Air Show,  
August 22, 1976.

history of the county; publication of the Blaine County library; the renovation of Zurich Park; and the history of homesteading in Blaine County.

A major project and one which received funding was the Annual Indian Pow-Wow Celebration.

## **BROADWATER COUNTY**

A grant from the Montana Bicentennial Administration for the construction of the Broadwater County Museum highlighted the projects in Broadwater County. The Museum was dedicated July 4, 1976. Independence Day was filled with activities including a free bar-b-que sponsored by the Broadwater Jaycees, a parade, games, and evening fireworks.

The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the second oldest church in Montana, St. Joseph's in Canton Valley, and the centennial anniversary of the chartering of Valley Lodge No. 21 A.F. & A.M. was held in 1976.

The year was spiced with activities. The County Rodeo, flower shows, teas and card parties, patriotic programs, style show, historical skits in the schools, quilt displays, a town meeting, a historical pageant and some down-home country square dancing made 1976 a dazzling year in Broadwater County.

## **CARBON COUNTY**

Projects of major significance included the erection of the Jim Bridger statue; establishment of a city park in Bearcreek to commemorate the memory of Dr. Seigfriedt, a local mine doctor and general practitioner; the Historical Enrichment and Enlightenment Program; and, the remodeling of a building in Fromberg which now serves as a youth and recreation center for the four Clark Fork Valley communities.

A project which sparked much enthusiasm was the Rick O'Shay Costume Ball, inspired by the famed cartoonist, Stan Lynde. The first and second annual Rick O'Shay Costume balls were held in Red Lodge during the Bicentennial era with prizes furnished by the Montana Bicentennial Administration and the local Carbon County Bicentennial Committee.

## **CARTER COUNTY**

Carter County was hopping with activities in celebration of our nation's 200th birthday. Carter County celebrated its 90th anniversary by producing 1,000 flasks depicting an Indian girl and pastoral scenes of the area.

Other projects ranged from the reinterment of David Harrison Russell, Ekalaka's first settler; moved by his family from Massachusetts to Ekalaka; to the publication of the history of the Carter County area, sponsored by the Carter County Geographical Society.

The Little Missouri Church at Capitol received a new facelift; a general clean-up and fix-up campaign occurred in Ekalaka during the Bicentennial era; a pageant was written, produced and enacted by local talent; and many arts and crafts were exhibited by local talent. June 22, 1975 was a "day for the kids" featuring a Youth Rodeo. Informational trail markers were placed around the rim near Ekalaka Park; "Days of 85," celebrating Ekalaka's 90th birthday, included a dress contest, beard growing contests, and fiddling and square dancing.

A final project with a little something for everyone was the "Harvest Supper" held to honor the Bicentennial and a "Fall Jamboree" picnic for the entire community.



## CASCADE COUNTY

Cascade County, one of Montana's largest counties, really showed her true patriotic colors in celebrating the Bicentennial. In June of 1976, noted national speaker, Paul Harvey, addressed thousands of picnickers in the small community of Cascade, stating "the Bicentennial came along just in time. It made patriotism popular again.!"

People from every walk of life became fired up at the prospects of the Bicentennial and the enthusiasm grew each day. The involvement began in December of 1974 when the first of 13 Town Meetings was held, ultimately attracting more than 4,000 people, where ideas were presented and projects launched.

The Montana Bicentennial Administration granted funds to many worthy projects in the county including the restoration of the C.M. Russell Home; the premier of "Fires of Another Time," a musical composition for chorus, band and orchestra by Dr. Donald O. Johnston and J.G. Powell; a major Bicentennial Symphonic and Choral work by William Bergsma; and the Soaring Spirits project which provided quality closed circuit TV programming to children in hospitals.

Other projects of significance included the restoration of St. Peter's Mission, an historic site near Cascade; "A Century in the Foothills," a history of the Eden community; the Ten-State Bicentennial Juried Art Show; 50 flag poles and flags from the 50 states erected near the entrance to Malmstrom Air Force Base; special forums, lectures, concerts, films, seminars, tele-courses devoted to the Bicentennial by the College of Great Falls; a re-enactment of the "Shot Heard 'Round the World" by the U.S. Army Reserve, attracting 3,000 people in Gibson Park; preservation of the old Paris Gibson Junior High School building as a national historic site, museum and art center; extensive Bicentennial activities throughout the entire Great Falls parochial and public school systems; the Black Eagle Celebration featuring a parade, program, bar-b-que and dance; the 1976 State Fair, which utilized the Bicentennial theme throughout. The climax of the Bicentennial effort in the county was the giant "We the People" July 3rd-4th weekend celebration with a free street fair, concert, dances, church services, afternoon entertainment and fireworks.

As a final record of this celebration, the Cascade County Bicentennial Commission prepared an above-ground time capsule which contains giant scrapbooks of pictures and clippings and other special memorabilia.

It is truly regrettable that due to the lack of space an in-depth coverage of Cascade County's efforts cannot be given. There were literally hundreds of Bicentennial projects and activities and an equal number of fine hard working people involved and this report merely skims the surface.



Students at Rocky Boy Elementary School learn about the many kinds of homes encountered on the Rocky Boy Reservation. The School is operated by the Tribe.



Heroic size statue of Lewis, Clark and Sacajawea overlooks the Missouri River in Montana near Fort Benton. Statue was commissioned by Fort Benton Bicentennial Committee and sculpted by famous artist, Bob Scriver, of Browning, Montana.

## CHOUTEAU COUNTY

Most residents of Chouteau County teamed up to make the celebration of our nation's Bicentennial one of the biggest events in the county's history. From Geraldine and Highwood to Big Sandy and Fort Benton, residents found themselves involved in numerous events and activities.

The 4th of July weekend in Geraldine found residents participating in an all-school reunion which was patterned after the town's first 4th of July including a banquet, historical pageant, dinner, and dances with music for the young and old. An arts and crafts show was featured and the local history book, "Spokes, Spurs and Cockleburs" was sold. The weekend concluded with activities such as team roping, horseshoe pitching, horse races, concert, fashion and beard growing contests and drawings.

Highwood residents participated in races and sports events, games, and an evening bar-b-que where more than 700 plates were served.

In Big Sandy the celebration was kicked off by the crowning of a queen, a parade, a box social, style show, games, free bar-b-que and street dance.

Undoubtedly, the single most significant project in the county was the dedication and unveiling of the Lewis & Clark Memorial which climaxed four and a half years work by the county Bicentennial committee. This was a Bicentennial project of national interest, and perhaps the most ambitious in the nation for a community of comparable size. A heroic-size statue of Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea was unveiled in a dedication ceremony with many notable state and local officials in attendance, and of course, Bob Scriver, the sculptor who created the piece. Many smaller replicas were sold and in the end, the committee reached their ultimate goal of raising \$400,000 which also served other Bicentennial projects locally.



## CUSTER COUNTY

The summer of 1976 witnessed many events and activities for residents of the county.

Several historical publications were produced including **Montana's Cook Book-Grandma's Recipes-Early Ways in Early Days; History of the Miles City Club**, a history of Montana's oldest social club; and the **Geographic History of Custer County**.

Other notable projects included the renovation of the first post office in the county; the remodeling of the Range Rider Museum and completion of the museum annex; construction of a rest area and park near the museum for tourist comfort; an old pumping plant built by the C.C.C. preserved and the old Presbyterian church renovated and now used as a tea house. The Bicentennial era also provided impetus for the formation of a Custer County Historical Society which now seeks to preserve the heritage of the county and provide this history to future county residents.

The summer of '76 found residents participating in model T races; air shows; basketball and golf tournaments; a professional rodeo; horse shows; track meets; auctions; and a downtown business district clean-up, beautification and improvement project in Miles City.

A project of great significance sponsored by the local Custer County Bicentennial Committee in conjunction with the MBA was the Yellowstone Journey adventure. A crew of four boarded the "Wan-I-Gan" on May 29th '75, departing Miles City on a three-month voyage down the Yellowstone and Missouri rivers to St. Louis.

For this historic re-enactment, the crew dressed in early day garb and used old methods and equipment, and voyaged in an exact replica of the old fur boat, "Wan-I-Gan."



Crew members of the Wan-I-Gan relax on the Missouri River enroute to St. Louis. Yellowstone Journey was an officially recognized project of ARBA and the MBA.



## DANIELS COUNTY

Some of the projects highlighting the Daniels County Bicentennial celebration included the Pioneer Town, the completion of an addition to the Heritage Center and the renovation of historic buildings in Scobey; a documented history of the people and places in the county; a Harvest Festival in conjunction with Dad's Night football; and the purchase of a flag pole and flags honoring the 50th anniversary of the Silver Star community.

The VFW Auxiliary Post 173 planted trees and shrubs at the local museum to enhance the grounds and the Girl Scout Troop 120 sponsored, prepared and sang songs for senior citizens and other groups.

Residents of the county participated in parades; Bicentennial skits; a Latin Mass celebrated in St. Philip's Church; a history contest conducted to encourage the recall of historic events in the county; an American bake sale and film presentations.

A major undertaking and one funded by the Montana Bicentennial Administration was the construction of sprinkling systems for the ball park, rodeo grounds, and cemetery.

## DAWSON COUNTY

A major project funded by the MBA and one which sparked much enthusiasm in the county was the re-printing of **1900 Montana Stockgrowers' Directory of Marks and Brands**, sponsored by the Dawson Co. Bicentennial Committee and Montana Stockgrowers Association. Two thousand copies of the historically valuable book were printed, listing various marks and brands used by stockgrowers in Montana before 1900.

Residents reconstructed a Pioneer Street in the basement of the Frontier Gateway Museum using artifacts of Montana's homestead era. Much restoration of businesses along the Main Street in Richey gave the area a needed facelift and other historic spots throughout the county were marked by the Dawson County Homemakers. For beautification and environmental purposes, many trees were planted along the Burlington Northern's right of way into Glendive.

Residents of the county were treated to "Glendive Creek to Gate City," a pageant depicting the early history of Eastern Montana, as well as many other festive events such as a square dance festival put on by the Makoshika Square Dancers and the 1976 Montana High School Rodeo.

Projects of long-term significance included an A-frame Bicentennial lodge erected by the local Lions Club and Carpenters Union for use by local youth groups. The Kiwanis Club and the City of Glendive raised funds for recreation equipment and sanitary improvements for a camping park. A pre-schoolers' park was approved and funds raised for the necessary equipment.

Other endeavors included the publishing of an informational pamphlet on Makoshika State Park, a monument erected to the Scandinavian pioneers by the Sons of Norway, and the construction of a Brontosaurus on campus at the Dawson Community College.

## DEER LODGE COUNTY

Various localities throughout Montana were treated to a choral presentation by the Boys Choir of Anaconda, complete with Revolutionary period uniforms.

Several other projects highlighted Anaconda/Deer Lodge County's Bicentennial celebration including the renovation of the lounge in the Marcus Daly Hotel in Anaconda. A local oral and written history of the copper industry's past, present and future was compiled by the Copper Village Museum in cooperation with the Deer Lodge Bicentennial Committee.



A bell from the City Hall was mounted and placed in the Kennedy Commons by the City and the local Bicentennial committee, and a memorial fountain was placed there by the Kiwanis Club and the local committee.

Folks participated in an enjoyed all kinds of Bicentennial games, shows, parades, style shows, music, and even a little wall art as various unused downtown buildings were decorated.

There were special events such as Senior Citizens Day when the elderly citizens were entertained by old-time fiddlers, square dancing, a barbershop quartet, and an ice cream social. Children's Day was a big hit and the kids were kept more than busy watching plays enacted by the Girl Scouts and others from the Washington School.

Several beautification and restoration projects included the repairs and landscaping at the Opportunity Clubhouse; landscaping of the Hearthstone Apartments for Senior Citizens; and the use of a plot of Washoe Park as an outdoor museum complete with an original log cabin built in the 1890's.

## FALLON COUNTY

Fallon County area residents were kept busy with many activities and events.

With help from the O'Fallon Historical Society, the major countywide project, a 500-page historical book entitled "O'Fallon Flashback," was completed and included histories from the Indian era through the Homesteaders to present day.

An all-school reunion held over the July 4th weekend highlighted events for more than 2000 invited graduates, teachers and their families. All local clubs participated to make the reunion a success. Scheduled activities included concerts, ice cream and lunch social, former students' talent night, receptions and fireworks.

One project funded by the MBA and sponsored by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program consisted of taped histories of the southeastern area of Montana as told by the old timers.

With help from the Chamber of Commerce, Jaycees and Lions, city crew members and volunteers built a site for trailers and a restroom at the City Park, to be used by overnight travelers.

Area residents enjoyed six musicals incorporating 200 years of music presented by



Von Tobel Carriage House, bought and renovated by the Art Center.

the Fine Arts Department of Baker High School. All grades participated in the program. The FHA Chapter of the High School presented historic pageants, style shows, a poetry contest and window displays throughout the Bicentennial era. Willard Homemakers entertained over 80 senior citizens at an afternoon social with music and dances. Senior Citizen groups in Baker and Plevna produced handmade gifts as fundraisers for local projects.

Projects of long-term significance included local tree planting by the FHA and the erection of a memorial to Fallon County veterans at the Courthouse square.

## FERGUS COUNTY

Outstanding participation by area citizens and local service groups teamed to make the Bicentennial celebration in Fergus county a most memorable one for all residents.

History came alive for area residents when Senior Citizens, the U.S. Army Reserve, National Guard and members of the Muzzleloaders Club re-enacted the Camp Lewis Massacre of July 7, 1875.

Written histories in the county included the **Central Montana Heritage Book**, featuring pioneer families prior to 1910, by the local Bicentennial committee; **Pioneers' Early Day Histories** by the Retired Teachers Association; histories of 19 active extension clubs by the Agricultural Extension Service; the **History of Denton, Coffee Creek and Danvers** by the Denton Community Club; and, a book, **Recording 50 Years of Rainbow Assembly #10** has been completed by Rainbow Assembly #10.

Projects of long-term importance included the purchase of a microfilm reader-viewer by the Carnegie Public Library, aided by a Bicentennial grant, and the movement and authentic renovation of a one-room schoolhouse by the Retired Teachers and Julia Hancock Chapter of the DAR. A Bicentennial grant enabled the Central Montana Historical Association to enlarge and expand the Central Montana Museum, and the Lewistown Kiwanis Club undertook a project to improve hiking paths of the Half-Moon Pass Trail by providing accommodations while preserving the natural beauty.

## FLATHEAD COUNTY

This county literally exploded with enthusiasm. There was at least one Bicentennial related project, event, activity or function scheduled for every day of 1976. It would be, of course, impossible to list even the major projects in this limited space.

The Big Sky World Logger Championships, 3rd largest in the United States, was held June 19th and 20th at the County Fairgrounds with over 100 professionals and novices competing in logging events for a \$10,000 purse. The show was jointly sponsored by the Concatenated Order of the Hoo-Hoo Chapter 187, and the Kalispell Jaycees, and more than 11,000 spectators made the show a success.

The Flathead Valley Rendezvous was held July 2, 3, and 4, opening with a chuckwagon breakfast. Three full days of activities ensued including a pioneer parade, black powder demonstrations, rendezvous bar-b-que, father-daughter quick draw competition, pioneer weapons display, arts and crafts display, horse competition, square dancers, old time fiddlers, trading post, kids' events such as pole climb, and an antique car show.

Another project of major significance and one which received Bicentennial funding was the Conrad Mansion restoration. This was an ongoing project since 1973 and will be completed sometime before 1983. It was jointly sponsored by the Conrad Mansion Memorial Museum Committee and the Local Flathead County Bicentennial Committee.



The project included the acquisition, restoration and maintenance of this historic mansion that was formerly the home of Charles Conrad, Kalispell's foremost pioneer and founder.

Other projects included the construction of a park in Columbia Falls; the Flathead Pioneer Auto Club Meet in Kalispell with over 200 antique cars entered; Fire Protection District Road Signs by the Creston Volunteer Fire Department; the Bench Project which consisted of placing benches throughout the county to provide the elderly with a place to sit; a historical film documenting the history of Flathead County; and other events and activities, too numerous to mention.



## GALLATIN COUNTY

The Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee succeeded in interesting a good cross section of people throughout the county to serve on the committee. One of their main goals was to encourage participation in the Bicentennial celebration at all levels. No project was too small or too large and grassroots involvement had top priority.

The Oral History of the county, funded by the MBA, highlighted their endeavors. The purpose was to gather audio and video tapes of interviews with local oldtimers as well as citizens whose experiences most likely would be of interest to succeeding generations. A total of 83 tapes were edited and catalogued and more tapes are being added presently in this on-going project.

Youth activities were especially prominent. School classes raised funds from many events and proceeds were given to the local Bicentennial committee for projects. Cub Scout Pack 680 and Boy Scout Troop 680 planned four living dioramas which were performed at several functions.

The county newsletter, "Bicentennial Bits," kept the local citizenry informed and enthusiasm high.

A countywide Bicentennial Ball, held May 1, 1976, was attended by young and old alike.

Hiking and ski trails were laid out and a bikeway planned.

The county committee republished **Gallatin County's Heritage**, and profits from the sale of 10,000 books were placed in a trust fund for continuing and future projects.

The largest project sponsored by the local committee was selected as Montana's official Bicentennial Site. Many hours were spent preparing presentations in order to secure this \$500,000 grant for the Missouri Headwaters Project.





## **GARFIELD COUNTY**

This relatively small county produced several major Bicentennial projects through the efforts of many dedicated county residents.

The Red Butte Cowbells compiled a listing of all current brands in the rural Rock Springs and Cohagen areas, and a book was published including the ranchers' names and locations.

On sale throughout the county was the map and guidebook, **Treasure Trails in the U.S.A.**, published by the National Extension Homemakers Council and sponsored by the local Garfield Bicentennial Committee.

The Jordan Jaycees succeeded in building a county museum. This interesting heritage preservation center houses some rare archaeological finds, such as dinosaur bones and even a complete, full-size replica of a triceratops.

Other events and activities included a Bicentennial costume contest; 4th of July parade and community picnic; and, slide presentations depicting the history, scenery, and wildlife of Garfield County.

## **GLACIER COUNTY**

The Glacier County Bicentennial Committee sponsored the "Week-Long Bicentennial Celebration" with numerous events such as an arts and crafts festival, music and dance festival, children's games, folk dances, parade, rodeo, golf tournaments, an airplane fly-over, and a pioneer crafts display and demonstration.

Projects of historical significance included the development of the Meriwether Lewis roadside park where Lewis camped while a party searched for a pass through the



Rockies; an oil field museum featuring an 88-foot derrick used during the 1930's, an antique pumping-jack and many other exhibits; the restoration of the first Ranger Station; and the preservation of the "Two Medicine Fight Site" sponsored by the Boy Scouts Council of No-Ooh Ska who permanently fenced and marked this historic site.

Evincing much foresight, the local committee established a bank account where surplus funds were deposited for the commemoration of our Nation's Tricentennial.

## **GOLDEN VALLEY COUNTY**

This small county, which at the time of the Bicentennial, had only 931 residents living in or around the county's two towns of Ryegate and Lavina, demonstrated to the rest of the state what people involvement and commitment is all about. For a community of this size to produce as many activities, events, projects and functions as they did is beyond amazement. The following projects are only a sampling of their spirit and pride:

To get the ball rolling, the American Legion and Auxiliary Post sponsored an Old Time Fiddlers Jamboree at which national champion fiddler, Dick Barrett, of Texas, made a surprise appearance and performed. The Belmont Homemakers Club served supper on election day with proceeds going to Bicentennial projects. A historical pamphlet outlining events before the community became a county in 1920 was printed and sold. Many projects were planned with the schools, churches, and every club in the county becoming involved. Parks in both Lavina and Ryegate were beautified, and Ryegate built a new park. An old firebell from one of the first buildings was placed in a tower in Lavina Park and tolled in conjunction with the nationwide bellringing on July 4th. Floats were entered in adjacent counties' parades; the senior citizens and a hobby club held an early craft display; school reunions were held with dances and bar-b-ques; the local committee sponsored "Shakespeare in the Parks" and treated the community to a pot-luck supper; the history of the Cushman Club was written and published by its members; and so on.

The project which highlighted this community's involvement and spirit and which was funded by the MBA, was the placement and dedication ceremony of the historical monument to Chief Joseph. The local committee and other citizens worked for many months to officially mark the spot where Chief Joseph crossed the Musselshell River on his retreat to Canada in 1877. All clubs in the county participated to make this dedication a truly memorable event.

## **GRANITE COUNTY**

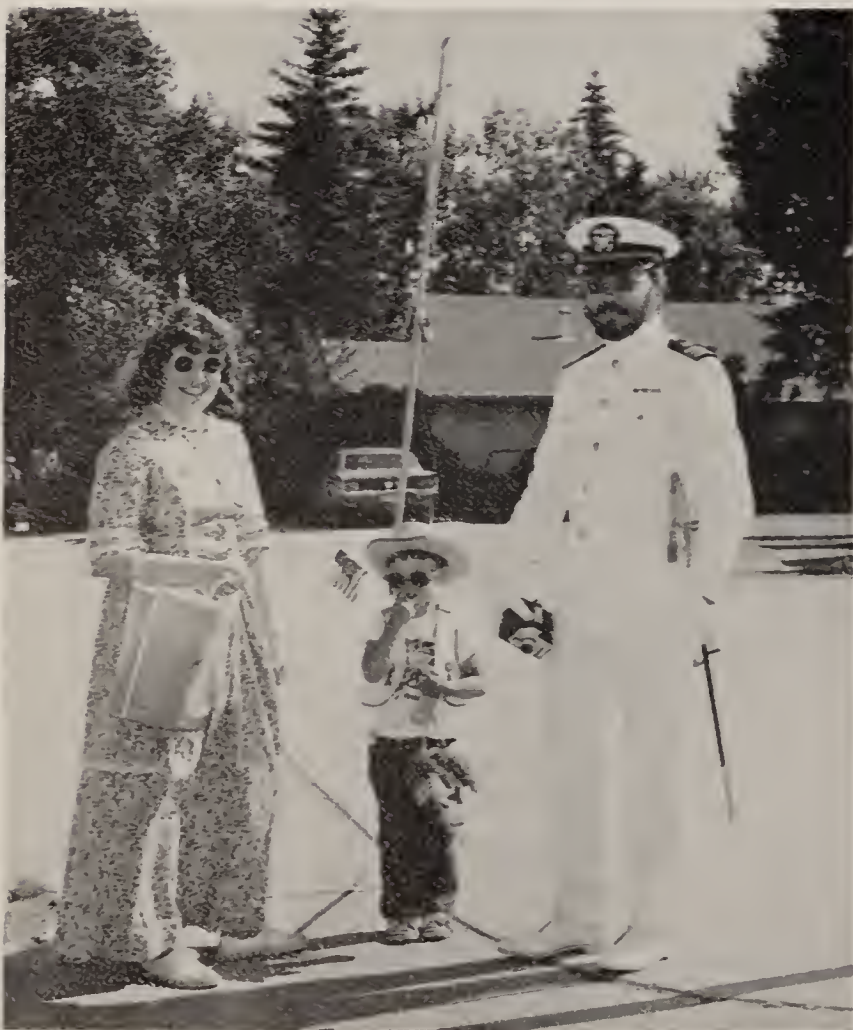
Granite County is another relatively small community which turned out in full force to honor America in celebration of her 200th year.

A project of major significance to the people of Granite County was the "Street Signs for County Towns." In keeping with the rustic nature of the towns, wooden signs manufactured by the county high schools were erected. Over 200 signs were placed in Philipsburg and 60 in Drummond.

Another project receiving funding and one very original in nature, was the Bicentennial stained glass window. Designed by the Granite County Bicentennial Committee and produced by the Art Glass Studio in Philipsburg, this many-faceted stained glass window was permanently placed above the main entrance to the county courthouse in dedication ceremonies on May 2, 1976.

Other projects involving all clubs and organizations include an art show and raffle; rodeo; Flint Creek Valley Days parade; bar-b-que; "Views of Granite and Philipsburg"

Paradise 4th of July celebration,  
dedicating the Community Park.





booklet with early photos; Voice of Democracy Contest; auction; beautification projects; Senior Citizens' hospitality days; 4-H Jamboree; development of a park with tennis courts; outdoor wall art; and, the re-naming of the Philipsburg airport with dedication ceremonies honoring Merrill Riddick, an aviation pioneer.

## HILL COUNTY

This county put forth a tremendous effort in portraying what its residents felt to be the most important aspect of the Bicentennial as evidenced by this quote from the Hill County Bicentennial Commission Chairperson, Mrs. Signe Sedlacek:

"We agree with the hoopla, the ringing of the bells, the fireworks, the parades and the celebration of our 200th birthday, but we feel even more strongly that unless we can build something for posterity, the Bicentennial mood will soon evaporate. In the research we did on local history, one indisputable fact emerged. While struggling for survival in the present sense, those early people were building for posterity in the future sense. The early homesteaders lived in tarpaper shacks, dugout houses and hauled water for bathing and drinking, but recognized the needs of their children and sacrificed to build churches and schools. We in the Hill County Bicentennial Commission have re-learned a lesson in our purpose, that some contribution to the future is justification for our being and we hope to supply that in the form of a new Memorial Library."

With the establishment and building of a new, consolidated city-county Memorial Library as their goal, area residents went all out in sponsoring and participating in such programs as the staging of the production "1776;" "Watching the Girls Go By" style show; barbership quartet; the Hi-Line Art Festival; the "Up With People" concert at Northern MT College; Jaycees firework display; and numerous other events and activities.

Other major fundraising undertakings included the sculpting of the figure of Rocky Boy, namesake of the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation. James Pasma donated his time and talent and 100 numbered bronze figures were made available to collectors. Another ambitious program was the publication of *Grits, Guts and Gusto*, a 514-page history of the county illustrated with 496 pictures, saluting the county's "trail breakers."

Again, space does not allow us to list all the major projects undertaken by Hill County's enthusiastic residents so interested persons should contact the Montana Historical Society in Helena for further details on Hill County's commemoration.



## JEFFERSON COUNTY

A very ambitious project on the part of Jefferson County residents became a reality during the Bicentennial era. With \$3,000 in funding from the Montana Bicentennial Administration, construction began on the Whitehall Medical Clinic, a dream of many residents for years. This project was the highlight of Whitehall's Bicentennial celebration and declared their official project. A very moving dedication ceremony took place with approximately 125 people in attendance.

Additional notable projects included an old time fiddler's jamboree; Bicentennial cattle train to Nebraska; United Methodist Women's program on pioneer women in Montana; Western Livestock 4-H program; square dance festival; performances by the Sunshine Singers; Home Demonstration's arts and crafts exhibits; skits and musical performances by elementary grades; High School Earth Day, a town cleanup program by students; the planting of a new high school football field and school grounds landscaping by the Booster Club; rodeo; parade; and an Independence Day bar-b-que, just to mention a few.

## JUDITH BASIN COUNTY

Residents from Stanford to Utica and Geyser participated in a six-month long celebration featuring a variety of entertainment, bar-b-ques and guest speakers.

An endeavor of lasting significance on the part of Stanford residents was the completion of a city park replete with swimming pool, bath house, and park improvements such as remodeling the rest rooms. Stanford also completed a recreation area with a youth center, softball and little league fields.

The City of Geyser sponsored a fine project in which they installed central heating at the Geyser Community Hall.

Local senior citizen involvement included the gathering together to make a quilt which was auctioned off; and Utica staged a Bicentennial parade which was a big success.

## LAKE COUNTY

The restoration of Fort Connah which was aided by a MBA grant was the major accomplishment of the Lake County Bicentennial Committee. Other projects included the Arlee road sign project, rodeo, concerts, a buckskin rendezvous, craft and art displays, fireworks display, Cherry Blossom Festival, dances, flower show, parades and more.

Several publications were completed including **The Heritage of Mission Valley**, **To Live on a Reservation** and **Where Buffalo Roam, A History of Early Ronan**.

A few of the many activities also included the Diamond Jaycee Rodeo, Copper Cup Regatta, Barbership Bicentennial Concert, Ronan Pioneer Days, Spring Fling, Immunization Clinics, and the big countywide celebration!

## LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY

Historic permanent bronze markers were placed at the sites of historic and architectural buildings throughout the city of Helena by the Northwestern Bank. Mr. G.W. "Shorty" Huber and grandson, Dave Maynard, peddled their way from Helena to Washington, D.C., promoting the Bicentennial and Montana along the way. The Extension Homemakers Club of the Dearborn area authored and compiled the Dearborn Community History Book from local pioneers and families. The propeller, anchor and chain from the U.S.S. Helena were acquired by the Helena Chapter of the U.S. Navy League and permanently placed in Helena with dedication ceremonies. A memorial made of granite was presented to the state and placed at the main entrance to the Veterans & Pioneers Memorial Building in Helena by the Montana American Legion and Auxiliary. A lighted memorial cross was erected in the Craig community as a permanent memorial to the pio-



neers and homesteaders of the area. An Augusta Oral History was compiled from recordings of older citizens of the community. The East Helena Kiwanis Club relocated and restored a pioneer cabin built by the Manlove family in 1863. Students of the Helena Junior High School raised funds through various programs and working together built the new "Lazy Green Park." Employees of Fort Harrison raised funds to erect a permanent memorial to the men and women who served our country. The Demolay organization decorated and painted fireplugs throughout the city. In 1975 and 1976 the Helena Jaycees sponsored a full weekend of activities for young and old alike throughout the Labor Day weekend. The Historic Musicales and Extravaganza, coordinated by Mrs. Blanche Judge, was one of the most exciting and professional Bicentennial programs presented to the Helena people.

Many festivals, parades, demonstrations, picnics, bar-b-ques and numerous other activities kept Helenans busy, and clearly demonstrated the Capital City's interest in celebrating this historic anniversary.

One major project which received Bicentennial funding was the remodeling of the old Augusta Community Center into an up-to-date Youth Recreation Center. This important and much-needed project was completed after many, many hours of hard work on the part of Augusta residents and has become a haven for teenagers of the area.

Highlighting Montana's involvement in the Bicentennial was the celebration of celebrations—a week-long statewide Bicentennial celebration held in Helena, involving the entire state. As the State Bicentennial Administration Office was located in Helena, the Director prevailed upon the local Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Committee to host this extravaganza, and what a job they did!! Because of the magnitude of such a celebration, a special State Festival Committee was formed. Hours upon hours were spent in contacting all organizations, all local Bicentennial committees throughout the state, and in the formation of a week-long schedule of events, with activities planned for each day and night. An example of some of these events included a spring concert; square dance demonstrations; school band shows; State Fiddlers' show; week-long Native American displays; walking tours of historic Helena; Senior Citizen activities; Vigilante Parade; style shows; numerous musical and dance presentations; window displays, and much, much more. And to top it off, at week's end the State Bicentennial Ball was held.

The climax of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Celebration was the grand celebration of the 4th of July, totally planned and coordinated by Mr. John Thomas, with the theme being "Our Religious Heritage, Patriotic and Historic." The response of the community was overwhelming and it proved to be the biggest parade and celebration ever witnessed by Helenans.

## **LIBERTY COUNTY**

Liberty County had a very successful Bicentennial observance. With full cooperation of all segments of the county, a grand total of 40 projects, events and activities were completed.

The most outstanding project was the Liberty Village Arts Center and Gallery, made possible with funding from the Montana Bicentennial Administration. The center is a restored church that was donated by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Buker, Jr.

Other unique projects included a county flag, a very distinctive chapel and meditation parlor located in the county hospital/nursing home, and the Liberty County Festival featuring a 72-entry parade.

More notable projects included **Heritage in Liberty**, a local history; Model Towns by the Girl Scouts; old fashioned flower show; musical productions; Colonial Fair; clean-up days; preservation of first homestead building and sod house; as well as reunions, fireworks displays and contests.





Event: Tree Top-90' pole. Won by  
Ron Downing.  
Castlerock, Washington.

## LINCOLN COUNTY

All organizations turned out to make the Bicentennial observance in this county a most memorable one.

One of the more notable projects and one which received funding is the Tobacco Valley Historical Village Improvement project. A historical village in Eureka has been remodeled to display historic buildings, items, crafts and skills.

The city of Troy built a tourist center which now furnishes tourists with information on interesting places to spend a vacation or visit.

The Libby Women's Farm Club compiled **Treasure Trails in the U.S.—1776-1976**, which lists historic events and places in the 50 states.

The Libby Pioneer Society taped many historically significant reminiscences of the area's old timers.

The Troy Lions Club completed a tourist park with rest rooms, cooking and camping facilities.

Several of the communities held clean-up campaigns and remodeled store fronts.

Nearly all the fund-raising projects of these communities had one goal in mind, the building of a Heritage Museum, which was a community-wide cooperative effort.

## MADISON COUNTY

This county is divided by the Tobacco Root Range from north to south, yet bound together by the same goal: the preservation of the past entwined with the building for the



Event: Axe Throw. All Around Montana Logger, Russ Gates, Bonner, Montana.



future. From Twin Bridges, Sheridan and Ennis, to Pony, Harrison and Norris we have witnessed outstanding commitments and accomplishments.

The Madison Valley Consolidated Schools sponsored the construction of an outdoor recreation court in Ennis to provide recreational opportunities for residents of the area. The Madison Women's Club developed a complete community library operated in conjunction with the school library which now contributes greatly to the future growth of the community. Other notable projects beneficial to existing and future generations included the improvement of the Twin Bridges Public Library; beautification of the County Fairgrounds; the development of a community center for Pony residents; and the restoration of an old school in Waterloo for use as a community meeting place.

Projects of historical interest included the publication of **Pioneer Trails & Trials**, the history of the county from 1840 to 1920, sponsored by the Madison County Historical Society. The Vigilante Club erected and dedicated a marker near Alder to commemorate the massacre of William Vanderburgh by the Blackfeet Indians in 1832. Another monument was erected in the Twin Bridges City Park by the American Legion Extension, listing historic dates pertinent to the area.

Some of the activities that brought all the communities together in observance of the Bicentennial included a spring concert by students at Ennis; a Pony ice cream and pie social; Harrison's fall festival and bazaar; Colonial Days for Children at Sheridan; the Ennis arts and crafts festival and rodeo and many others.

## McCONE COUNTY

Many local residents worked long and hard hours on one of the county's bigger projects. With financial help from the County Commissioners, residents moved an old school house to Circle, the county seat, and began the long and tedious work of restoring it to perfect condition, complete with desks, wall maps, flag and books. Present-day school books were sealed and stored in this old school house, to be opened in the year 2076.

Other projects indicative of this county's hard work and enthusiasm included taped recordings of pioneer experiences which have been placed in the county museum for the



Restored rural school building.

enjoyment of everyone; the complete history of the county's rural schools with locations and names; **The Mail Arrived**, an interesting account of ingenious methods by which mail was delivered through mud, snow and crossing rivers without bridges; and the **History of Early Circle**, a written history of the life of the first storekeeper in Circle.

Area residents were entertained by an arrangement of early American melodies performed by the Circle High School Band; a spring recital and concert and early day dances performed by the Girl Scouts.

Residents have also filled their own time capsule with autobiographies of the 1976 Circle High School seniors; present day school materials; a Sears Roebuck catalog; local newspapers; copies of U.S. News and World Report; various farm magazines; coins; and several other items. A Tricentennial fund has also been established. One hundred dollars has been deposited and according to one committee member, at the rate of 6½ percent, the fund will accumulate to \$63,125 by the year 2076.

## **MEAGHER COUNTY**

Highlighting the observance of the Bicentennial in Meagher County was the restoration of the Castle Museum by the County Historical Association. The 1892 vintage home was re-roofed, the windows re-puttied and painted, new display cabinets built and part of the basement was floored for storage; a kitchen corner established and a new wrought iron gate purchased for the driveway. The Castle has been in operation as a museum since the late 1960's.

On July 3 and 4, the White Sulphur Springs businessmen treated the town to a celebration that began with the "Twilight Limited" run of a 1920 steam engine on the night of the 3rd. Two train cars filled with local citizenry enjoyed free champagne and hors d'oeuvres. The celebration continued all day the 4th with games, contests, balloon ascension, horse race, puppet show, free bar-b-que, pie baking contest and free street dance and fireworks. That same afternoon the CowBelles sponsored a Pioneer Crafts Display featuring dozens of skills, crafts and chores of by-gone days.

Several organizations sponsored activities such as the painting of fire hydrants and litter barrels; painting of outdoor murals and school children performing plays and skits.

## **MINERAL COUNTY**

The Bicentennial in this small county was highlighted by a 4th of July celebration in St. Regis; the historic church renovation in Deborgia; and a variety of projects in Superior including an immunization clinic, the museum project, historical event and yard beautification contests, Bicentennial fire plugs, liberty tree project, swimming pool improvement and Derby Day.

## **MISSOULA COUNTY**

Missoula County's Bicentennial observance got off to a good start with the planning and completion of several preservation projects such as the taped memories of pioneer citizens; donation of the old Bouchard log house which has now been restored; and the relocation and restoration of the Woodworth School from the Blackfoot Valley to Fort Missoula by the Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. The Lolo Federation of Women's Clubs compiled a history of the Lolo area and the American Legion published a history of early Missoula.

Projects of major significance included the S.O.S. Health Center at Seeley Lake which was established due to the lack of adequate medical facilities in the area and construction of an indoor and outdoor museum of Western Montana history on 28 acres at the original site of Fort Missoula, sponsored by the Western Montana Ghost Town Preservation Society.

A wilderness education program designed to teach basic ecological concepts,



wilderness skills and judgment was presented from June to September, 1976, and is an ongoing project.

Residents from all localities in the county participated in numerous activities such as arts festivals; concerts; Bicentennial walks; a folk dance festival; parades; picnics; public forums; a river race and carnival; and a Spirit of '76 gathering for all Missoula women's club members invited by the Zonta Club.

Missoula's 4th of July celebration was held at Fort Missoula and was the largest, single celebration in the county, with more than 17,000 persons in attendance.

## **MUSSELHELL COUNTY**

Area residents teamed up to make the Bicentennial observance one to be remembered for quite a while. Early in the celebration the Musselshell Bicentennial Committee held a Bicentennial fundraising celebration featuring an auction and dramatic musical presentation.

The Musselshell Valley Historical Museum moved and renovated an historic log house and also published **Old-Time Chuck**, a cookbook of old recipes and bits of history.

A history of Melstone was published by the Melstone Public School System using the combined talents of the students.

Bicentennial parades, teas, art shows, style shows and crafts displays allowed area residents to get together and celebrate their heritage.

## **PARK COUNTY**

The Gardiner Eagles Lodge, Aerie 669, completely repaired and remodeled the Eagles Hall in Gardiner which serves as a community center for area residents.

Other Bicentennial projects included the July 2 dedication of the newly constructed city-county government offices with events such as tours, a luncheon, band music, flag ceremonies, the dedication of the Veterans of Foreign Wars monument, and Liberty Bell and Cornerstone Plaque dedications.

In conjunction with the regular high school graduation exercises, there was a special program honoring the members of the class of 1926. Several members of this class attended and enjoyed a reunion and party.

A public archaeological summer dig was held on the Stole ranch near Livingston. Earlier, a local rancher had accidentally found this bison kill area which has of late been the scene of much volunteer work. All materials recovered have since found homes in the Park County Museum.

Fourth through eighth grade students of the Rosedale School in the Paradise Valley presented three delightful performances of "A Shot Heard Round the World," commemorating the Revolutionary War.

## **PETROLEUM COUNTY**

The Rodeo and Roping Clubs of Petroleum County presented a nine-event rodeo which featured events and entertainment common to the old West. An old-fashioned dance at Flatwillow Hall created much Bicentennial awareness for community residents.

The *Winnett Times*, local newspaper of the county, republished in its September 9, 1976 issue, the formation of Petroleum County including factual information dating back to the early 1920's.

## **PHILLIPS COUNTY**

The Trafton Arena grandstands were packed as area residents viewed the Jaycee Demolition Derby. Four regular heats, a consolation and powder puff heat entertained the crowd. This was just one of several Bicentennial events held in Phillips County. Other

activities included many sports events for kids such as sack races and pre-schooler foot races. A free picnic, donated by area businesses and individuals, satiated a huge crowd.

A project receiving Bicentennial funding and sponsored by the Whitewater School District #20AA was concerned with the study, identification and recording of prehistoric fossils and artifacts found in the Whitewater and Frenchman Creek areas. The school district displayed these artifacts in the new Phillips County Whitewater Historical Museum.

## PONDERA COUNTY

Pondera County area residents were kept busy planning and completing numerous projects in observance of the Bicentennial.

Several completed projects and events included the "dress a doll" contest with the dolls being given to needy children in the community; Middle School Musical Pageant by the Conrad Public schools; the Valier Homesteader Days Parade; and the Lions Club Whoop-up Days Parade.

After residents participated in the development of a roadwise rest area built on the Conrad to Dupuyer highway with a missile donated by the government erected on a foundation. A rest stop was completed along the old Whoop-up Trail where it crossed the interstate, and the city of Conrad dedicated ten acres of land to the Pondera County Bicentennial Committee for a new museum.



Prairie View Middle School—Bicentennial Costume winners at school program. Left to right: Jeff Reiver, Jamie Hutton, Teri Bollinger, and Joy Hould.

## POWDER RIVER COUNTY

The Powder River residents decided that their Bicentennial Birthday would be celebrated however the people chose, that it would be a local party by, of and for the people. Activities began with the county fair at which an old photo show took top honors.



A photo committee was then formed which then published a 600-page photo album. Projects of importance to the community included the microfilming of county records for fire protection and to better serve the public; and the laminating of 52 years of the *Powder River County Examiner* for public use.

Area residents were contacted and responded with an enthusiastic "will do" attitude. Examples of this enthusiasm included the placing of a bronze marker at historical Boot Hill Cemetery by the Powder River Chapter of the DAR. The Commercial Club and Jaycees hosted a reception for the Wagon Train which arrived in July of 1975. Authenticity was the watchword of this wagon expedition. Entries were veritable museum pieces.

The occasion of the Bicentennial Fair included a spontaneous musical at the County High School the evening the Wagon Train entries signed in. Local entertainers played to a full house. Following this was the VFW-hosted Bicentennial Ball with over 200 in attendance, some in 75-to-90-year-old costumes. Area residents also enjoyed a nature study; historic dress competition; historic machinery and colonial food displays and "Bicentennial Revival" classes demonstrating the arts of quilting, weaving, needlepoint and hooked and braided rugs.

## POWELL COUNTY

Stretching from the middle of the Bob Marshall Wilderness almost to Anaconda, and reaching from the top of MacDonald Pass to beyond the Gold Creek area, Powell County posed peculiar problems for Bicentennial activities. But the communities of Gold Creek, Avon, Elliston, Helmville, Ovando and the county seat of Deer Lodge were not about to allow the miles that separated them from staging a dramatic Bicentennial observance.

Projects of significance which exemplified their spirit and enthusiasm included the official opening of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation building. The exterior was completely renovated; the interior was finished complete with carpeting and lights; and the original foundation set in 1884 was repaired.



As the community of Avon was in desperate need of a fire department, they staged many fund-raising projects and raised more than \$2,500 for this worthy cause.

A Bicentennial Cookbook was completed and published by the Gold Creek

Community Club. The old fashioned 4th of July in Ovando saw residents putting in long hours planning the activities, parade, town improvements and the actual July 4th observance. They raised over \$1,000 to accomplish their goals.

Other very notable projects included the landscaping and transformation of the old Central School site by the students and teachers of the school district into a living memorial park; the city of Deer Lodge, American Legion and Jaycees created a baseball field at the site of the old city dump to serve as a permanent recreation and sport activities field; and the Ovando Volunteer Fire Department created a city park.

## **PRAIRIE COUNTY**

In conjunction with the Bicentennial celebration, Prairie County observed its 60th birthday and county residents participated in worthwhile projects such as the countywide clean-up campaign and a general clean-up and fix-up of the county's cemeteries, parks and picnic grounds.

The history of the county, **Wheels Across Montana's Prairie**, has been compiled and published by the local Prairie Bicentennial committee. Other programs and projects sponsored by the committee included repairing the shelving and glass cases at the county museum; the permanent marking of historic sites such as old trails, jails, graves, Indian monuments, and tipi rings; preservation and restoration of the old hospital for use as a boarding house for retired persons; and the restoration of an old landmark of the area, the "Stith" Outhouse.

School students from throughout the county displayed their various talents to the community residents through numerous skits, art contests, and plays.

A highlight of the celebration was the Prairie County Birthday Celebration with coffee, cookies and decorated cake at a reception held for all county officials.

## **RAVALLI COUNTY**

Highlighting the Bicentennial celebration in Ravalli County was the tri-county wagon train trek. Starting out at Johnson Creek, the wagons and outriders traveled eighty miles and six days later arrived in Hamilton just in time for the July 4th parade and celebration.

Projects of historical significance to all area residents included the restoration of the chapel rectory at St. Mary's Mission, built in 1867. The Stevensville Historical Society restored buildings and structures at old Fort Owen and reconstructed an authentic, active trading post of the period. Preservation of the first ranger station in the United States has been undertaken by the Bitterroot Valley Historical Society.

Local thespians treated area residents to the play entitled *Lily, the Felon's Daughter*. The play was enacted by local talent and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

A dance and picnic held in conjunction with the annual Darby Logger Days and sponsored by the Darby Jaycees proved both entertaining and profitable to the community.

A local art-in-the-park show and Appaloosa horse show entertained many spectators. Stevensville and area residents feasted at a buffalo bar-b-que.

Several Bicentennial picnics, flower shows, and other events and activities kept the Bicentennial spirit high during the celebration for thousands of county residents.

## **RICHLAND COUNTY**

Sidney/Richland County, located in the far eastern portion of our state, was not about to be left out of the Bicentennial observance. Spirit and enthusiasm overtook this



community as they planned and prepared a tremendous number of projects in celebration of the Bicentennial. Sidney/Richland County was Montana's **first** official Bicentennial Community and dedication of this honor took place on July 21, 1974.

A sampling of their projects included **Courage Enough**, an award-winning area history of pioneer families published by the Mondak Historical and Arts Society; the West Side School tree planting project; the Chamber of Commerce "Toast 'n Roast" of city fathers followed by an unprecedented Democrat-Republican sponsored Bicentennial Ball; Bicentennial parade and Sidney Saddle Club Rodeo; Shrine Circus and fireworks display; *Retrospect*, a daily radio program about historical events and people; and the *Richland Roundup*, a countywide historical musical and drama presented by local talent with over 300 persons in attendance.

The Charlie Creek Jaycees, with financial help from the Montana Bicentennial Administration, developed a recreational area at the Elmdale Hall including baseball and tennis facilities.

In Lambert, residents planned and participated in a Fun Day, July 11, 1976, with an old fashioned tent church service, pot luck dinner, parade, antique show, plumbers band, community band, and games for children. With help from the Homemakers Club, this community completed a park, planting trees and grass and installing play equipment and picnic tables. They also restored one of the first print shops in the county with some of the oldest equipment in the state.

A two-day Bicentennial celebration in conjunction with the reunion of the Elmdale-Charlie Creek-Mona-Enid communities was held in Elmdale.

Highlighting the county's observance of the Bicentennial was the "Days of '76," June 11 through the 14, with scheduled events and activities such as Pony Express rides; children's games; pageant, Guys & Dolls square dance; fly-in breakfast; airport rededication; Bicentennial parade with cash awards; team roping; tractor pull; bingo; bar-b-que; demolition derby; old fashioned street dance; free breakfasts; outdoor interdenominational church services; musical and theatrical presentations; historical skits and plays; and a flag day ceremony. Several organizations and civic groups awarded cash prizes for picture contests, window decorations and parade contests.

## ROOSEVELT COUNTY

From Bainville to Wolf Point, Roosevelt's residents held a mighty celebration. In Bainville, area residents produced a grand old 4th of July picnic and in Brockton the Badlands Indian celebration provided an opportunity for area residents to gather and celebrate. Culbertson's Frontier Days, June 5th and 6th, with parades both days, and their old fashioned July 4th picnic sparked much enthusiasm and were well attended. Fort Kipp residents could be found celebrating the three-day Indian Dance Celebration, July 2, 3, and 4.

A Memorial Day service with parade and pot luck dinner got the Bicentennial ball rolling for residents of Froid. The VFW Auxiliary planted pine trees and made a number of town window displays. A very unique project on the part of Froid's Horseshoe Club was the covering and lighting of each court, a first for the state. Other projects participated in by citizens included the painting of downtown windows, microfilming of old newspapers and a Bicentennial concert. The Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration included such activities and events as an interdenominational church service parade, antique car and machinery show, pot luck for all and street dance.

Poplar residents gathered to celebrate the Wild West Days, All-Indian Rodeo and the Santee Iron Ring Indian Celebration. Wolf Point's Wild Horse Stampede, July 9, 10 and 11, along with dedication of "*The Homage*," a bronze statue erected paying homage to early settlers and the land, were main attractions for residents and tourists alike. Wolf



Point also constructed a tennis and basketball court.

By far the most ambitious project undertaken by Roosevelt County was the completion of their history, **Roosevelt's Treasured Years**, a 1,000 page volume with nearly 1,800 photos, covering the journey of Lewis and Clark, wagon trails and airplanes to industries, government, Indians and the personal histories of approximately 800 families.

### ROSEBUD COUNTY

In conjunction with our nation's 200th birthday, Rosebud County celebrated their 75th anniversary with a huge reception.

Much enthusiasm was generated by the restoration of the first County Courthouse by the Rosebud Bicentennial Committee. A local committee also formed and compiled the history of the county.

Area residents participated in many events and activities such as the Bethlehem Chapter of Eastern Star's luncheon, colonial costume review and contest, parade, threshing bee, float contest, poster contest and numerous others.

Two local pioneers, Mrs. Edith Finch and Mr. Gordon McRae, researched and compiled articles entitled *Early Day Schools in Forsyth* and *History of the Old Library Building*, respectively.

### SANDERS COUNTY

In promotion of the Bicentennial, the goal of the Sanders County Bicentennial Committee was to make every community in the county a better place for the children and





Thompson Falls Beautification Project for downtown area.

grandchildren of its residents. This goal was accomplished, many projects are continuing, and all citizens are benefiting from the efforts begun during the Bicentennial.

With this goal in mind, the residents of Noxon, with help from the Heron, Noxon and Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce, developed and created a Bicentennial Town Park, benefiting all the communities.

In Paradise, there was much consideration for the past and future in the planning of their Community Bicentennial Park. Included in the construction was a rockwork fountain, log railing, an underground sprinkler system, the planting of flowers and shrubs and the building of picnic tables and benches. The Paradise Community Park was formally dedicated July 4th to the people of the town, past, present and future.

Other projects included a speech and poster contest, community singing and parade, historical displays, pot luck supper served to approximately 300, public street dance and fireworks display.

The Sanders County Bicentennial Committee also sponsored the compilation of the **History of Lonepine. Hot Springs and Camas Prairie** and the **History of Paradise.**



Sheridan County time capsule.



## SHERIDAN COUNTY

Two words can sum up the Bicentennial celebration in Sheridan County; sharing and involvement. In May of 1974 a committee of seven individuals was appointed and in only a short time the committee expanded to nearly 50, with representation from every community in the county. The committee members state they may have been lacking in Bicentennial knowledge, but they were not lacking in Bicentennial enthusiasm. How true! Approximately 6,000 county residents from church groups, veteran organizations, youth groups and clubs, to farm organizations, senior citizens, and business were involved in pageants; parades; a swimming exhibition; horseshoe competition; pancake breakfasts; trap shoot; old fashioned ice cream socials; golf tournaments; bulletin boards and posters; band, chorus and choir concerts; quilt making; window displays; art shows; Freedom Train and Canadian tour; town and community clean-up campaigns; tree and flower plantings and contests; style shows and wedding reviews; patriotic slides and movies; pioneer biographies and Bicentennial news items; patriotic themes in written, oral, drawing and coloring contests; burying of a Time Capsule; erecting a monument; dedicating a flag and flag pole; an addition to the Sheridan County Historical Museum; and the naming of a community room in the new addition to the Sheridan County Courthouse as "Bicentennial Room" just to name a few.

Initially, to get the Bicentennial rolling, a Bicentennial Workshop was held in Outlook and in the weeks to follow, similar workshops were held in other communities.

Two hundred years of our nation's history were depicted in 25-year segments with every community participating in the interpretation of their particular historical era as follows: "Uncle Sam's Birthday Party 1776-1801"; "The Dream Is America—Memoirs of Uncle Sam 1801-1826"; "Superseason in America 1826-1851"; "The Agonizing Years 1851-1876"; "Watch Our Nation Grow 1876-1901"; "The Golden Years 1901-1926"; "Boom, Bust and Bang 1926-1951"; and "Which Way, America? 1951-1976."

At the very first meeting of the Sheridan County Bicentennial Committee, the decision was made to build a native stone monument which would stand as a peace symbol between the United States and Canada, to be dedicated to the memory of all Sheridan County pioneers. This dream was realized at a July 4, 1976 dedication.

There were so many more beautiful Bicentennial projects but one cannot even begin to list them or expound on them. Suffice it to say that Sheridan County's involvement in our Bicentennial observance was an outstanding display of patriotism and enthusiasm.

On January 16, 1977, the residents again gathered together for the "Beginning of Tomorrow: A Salute to the Youth of Sheridan County" program, where awards and prizes were given and the Bicentennial observance officially closed.



## SILVER BOW COUNTY

The Bicentennial observance in Butte/Silver Bow County produced numerous historically significant projects and featured spectacular events and activities for its residents.

Residents of the county are to be highly commended not only for their enthusiasm and spirit but for their hard work and dedication in seeing their fine projects through until completion. Just a smattering of their efforts include the *Pioneer Residents' Memoirs*, taped interviews of pioneer residents of Butte. Over 50 tapes were obtained of eyewitness memoirs of the early-day history of Butte and were catalogued in the city library. **Butte's Heritage Cookbook**, a project of considerable magnitude, records Butte's rich culinary heritage with its famous eating spots in old Butte; plus 850 recipes representing 21 nationalities; 300 pages; 25 sections containing personal narrations; dozens of photos and historical tidbits; 30 major drawings by Butte artists; and was made available in both soft and hard cover versions. The book represented a look at a truly unique cuisine, a melting pot of the world's finest cookery. Residents of Butte and the county, without compensation, contributed their time, skills and resources to preserve this one segment of Butte's great heritage. All profits accrued from the sales have been dedicated to the establishment of a non-profit cultural art center for the community of Butte, a long time dream of many of Butte's residents, now becoming a reality. Ms. Jean McGrath devoted an entire year to the production of the cookbook and the book has been a sensational success.

The Charles Clark Castle, a distinctively constructed residence, was obtained for the fine arts cultural center through the diligent efforts of Clarence Kommers, Silver Bow County Bicentennial chairman, and his committee members.

The Butte Celebrations Committee was most successful in arranging, sponsoring and executing the following activities: Army's Golden Knights performance at the airport; gigantic 4th of July parade witnessed by over 50,000 people; fireworks display on the night of July 5; community picnic at Stodden Park; and the Navy's Blue Angels performance.

Copper Camp, a springtime festival of the arts was sponsored by the Junior League of Butte. Copper Camp provided a cultural happening as all forms of the arts were featured, including performances by danceMontana for the entire school system.

Other notable activities included organization and execution of a Bicentennial Speakers' Bureau; the reprinting of the book, **Copper Camp**; Butte Symphony Orchestra's "Salute to the Bicentennial" program; and inspirational and enthusiastic programs and projects conducted throughout the school of the community.

## STILLWATER COUNTY

An outstanding publication, **Furrows in Time**, compiled and paid for by the Reed Point Memorial Library in cooperation with a group of local women, was just one example of this community's pride and spirit.

The marking of the Bozeman Trail through Stillwater County and the publication of a brochure were the projects of a small committee of four local area residents. These four citizens did the research and drew up a map through the use of aerial maps, Geiger counters, interviews with old-timers and following the trail themselves. The signs along the trail were designed and constructed by shop classes at Absarokee High School and erection of the signs was accomplished by all-volunteer labor.

The Montana Porkettes compiled and published a pork cookbook with recipes from Montana residents.

The Spring Creek Stockgrower's 4-H Club erected street signs in Absarokee.

## **SWEET GRASS COUNTY**

Projects and activities undertaken by dedicated and enthusiastic citizens of Sweet Grass County included the "Pioneer Days," an old fashioned countywide get-together with fun and games, horseshoes, costumes, bar-b-que and an old fashioned street dance.

The Sweet Grass County Bicentennial Committee sponsored a one-day rodeo incorporating the Bicentennial theme and the extension of **Pioneer Memories**, a book written by families of early Sweet Grass settlers. The book, in its second printing, elaborated on the area's early history and included additional photos and stories.

The county superintendent of schools compiled a history of the rural schools in the county and the history will be kept on file for reference.

A fundraising project was the Bicentennial Calendar, featuring a different 8"x10" sketched landmark for each month.

The local Bicentennial committee also sponsored the marketing of "*Rivers Across*," a campsite of Captain Meriwether Lewis.

The Yellowstone float trip from Big Timber to Billings, sponsored by the local Jaycees, was a big event.

## **TETON COUNTY**

Teton County, with an approximate population of 6,200 staged a most remarkable Bicentennial observance with every segment of the county involved to a great extent.

The community of Collins opened the first Bicentennial program early in the celebration with an awards program for most authentic costumes. The main project of this community was the re-roofing of their clubhouse, and through a united effort, the needed funds were raised and the project completed.

Like a small rolling snowball gaining in size and strength, programs developed throughout the country. In spite of severe winter weather, flowers and trees were planted on Arbor Day and a countywide clean-up progressed with vigor. Fairfield's Swim Day was observed with an agricultural program added which excellently portrayed the ancient and modern methods of farming.

At the dedication of Teton's designation as an Official Bicentennial County Mrs. Patricia Whitehorn, the granddaughter of Montana's first governor, was guest speaker. She related a number of events of her grandfather's day. The dedication included dances, flag ceremony, and luncheon. Fairfield held an Appreciation Day in honor of farmers and workers and funds raised were used for a needed ambulance heart monitor. Funds were also raised for the purchase of three heart monitors for the county hospital.

Indicative of the residents' spirit, many activities were staged such as a Bicentennial fashion show; street dance; youth art program; county spelling bees; display of antiques and an old-time country fair and flower show throughout the Bicentennial era.

The Veterans of Teton County erected a memorial to soldiers who died in battle and the local Bicentennial committee sponsored the compilation of the history of each community in the county.

The following statement sums up the feeling of county residents: "I did not really know what true patriotism meant until now. It isn't the flag waving and all that, but I felt that I belong, that I truly am part of this great nation and I want to do my part. I feel now that the Bicentennial has been an essential part in bringing us to true patriotism."

## **TOOLE COUNTY**

Of the tremendous number of projects undertaken by this community of civic-minded citizens, only one project requested and received funding from the Montana





Uncle Sam (Irma Rhoda) leading the 4th of July parade at Sunburst, July 4, 1976.

Bicentennial Administration, and that was for the purchase of a grand piano for the Shelby High School auditorium, sponsored by the Toole County school board and the Parents' Music Club.

A few of the projects included the following:

The Devon-Galata Boy Scouts, Troop 558 studied, located and marked the Old Otis Trail; an art show of the county's history; a musical presentation by the county schools spanning 200 years; a banquet honoring the county's pioneer, Mae Clark, born 1885; observance of Native American Day with displays of Native American artifacts, sculpture and books; the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2484 Voice of Democracy contest; "The Freedom Tree" Middle School music department presentation; Bicentennial features in the Shelby Times newspaper; Shelby tennis courts spearheaded by Kiwanis Club; recording of personal interviews of old-timers; the "Women of History" pageant by the Shelby B & PW; the completion of several new buildings such as the Toole County Public Safety Facility, new fire hall and medical clinic; the Shelby city council's clean-up week and war on dilapidated buildings; publication of **Echoes from the Prairie**, by the Sunburst Jayhawkers' and Prairie's homemaker extension clubs; installation of playground equipment, tennis courts, baseball and softball field and picnic area by the North Toole County Jaycees and Jayceens; the purchase and planting of 1,000 caragana and green ash trees by the Sunburst high school students; antique show sponsored by the Legion Auxiliary; Paul Bunyan breakfast by Shelby Soroptimists with help from their husbands, feeding over 200.

## TREASURE COUNTY

Treasure County's most dramatic projects included the publication of several histories as follows: **Tales of Treasure County** had been in the planning since early 1974. Committee members divided the county into five segments and area residents researched the settlement of their area using various resources; each junior and senior student at Hysham High School researched a particular year of the school's history for the publication of the **History of Hysham High School**; and, local residents compiled and published the **History of Three Churches in Treasure County**; the **Biography of Senator D.M. Manning**, longest tenured legislator in the United States, was completed by the Democratic Women's Club.

Other very notable projects evidencing this community's Horizon spirit and pride included the landscaping of the courthouse lawn and landscaping the fire hall and community center by the Friendly Garden Club; Facelift for Elliott Avenue, including sidewalk repair, removal of sections of buildings, weed control, landscaping and painting by the Hysham Lions Club; and the Hysham Women's Club sponsored the construction of a wading pool for area tots. There were of course, other projects of lasting significance. Projects under the Festival theme ranged from Bicentennial floats in parades, youth debates and "Americanism Sunday," to Bicentennial school bulletin boards, and "Bicentennial Night" at Hysham High School with gala entertainment.



John McAlister, "Mr. Bicentennial" in Toole County.





Stage coach in 4th of July parade.

## VALLEY COUNTY

The first priority of the Valley County Bicentennial Committee was to get the people informed and involved and then schedule events and activities for each community.

Top priority projects of the county which received funding included a grant for the Valley County Historical Museum at Glasgow. Money was used to develop an outdoor display across from the museum and for new displays within the museum. The Big Sky Kiwanis Club at the Glasgow Air Force Base received funds to develop a recreational park, a native botanical garden and install playground equipment. Funds were granted to the Nashua school and PTA for use in the nature study program at the school. By far the largest project in the county was the construction of the Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital which at completion cost \$2.8 million and of that amount \$1.5 million came from the residents of the county in the form of donations.

Many festival activities and events included the Winter Fest at Nashua; Old Timers' Day at Larslan; Old Timers' Reunion at Richland; Lustre held a songfest; Frazer held "Red Bottom Days"; a Bicentennial Commemorative Celebration was held at Hinsdale; and in Opheim residents participated in Rodeo-76 with an old time picnic, plays and a bean feast.

The musical production "1776" was presented by the Shriners; and the public was treated to numerous plays at the Fort Peck Summer Theatre including "Charlie Brown," "Mouse Trap," "Dames at Sea," and a children's play, "The Butterfly."

Historical books and publications produced during the Bicentennial observance include the **History of Larslan**; the **Richland Community Book**; the **History of the Bethel Lustre Mennonite Church**; the reprinting of the **History of Valley County**; **Hinsdale's First History Book**; the **Opheim and Glentana Community Histories**; a Cookbook compiled by the Valley County Extension Homemaker Club; the **History of the Nashua Area and the North Country**; a history of the Pioneer Museum and the people of the area by the Valley County Historical Society which also published the history of early day education in the county.

Several projects undertaken by area residents included cleanup campaigns; art displays; tree plantings; parades; rodeos; stock car races; picnics; fiddlers contest; and numerous others.

Residents of the Larslan and Hinsdale communities even found time to prepare information and materials to be placed in separate Time Capsules which were buried in their respective areas.

Hats off to the enthusiastic and dedicated residents of Valley County!



## WHEATLAND COUNTY

In Wheatland County, the American Legion Post #15 arranged for the making of Revolutionary-period uniforms and presented an outstanding display at many county functions, as well as celebrations in outlying areas. They even travelled to the Capital city. Harlowton graduates combined their talents and held the first All-School Reunion in the 63-year history of the Harlowton High School. In conjunction with the reunion, the townspeople enjoyed a bar-b-que. The Harlowton Woman's Club sponsored the Pioneer Memorial at the courthouse in memory of the pioneers of the county. The club sponsored an immunization clinic and joined in window displays, float entries, style shows and teas. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Celebration of Harlowton's 75th Birthday in conjunction with the Bicentennial by arranging an arts and crafts show; displays and much entertainment in addition to completing Staley Park with fences, flowers, grass and benches.

The E57B Train Project was Wheatland's biggest and was the recipient of a \$1,500 grant. The project entailed the moving of an electric switch engine from the yard to the Chief Joseph City Park and all work was volunteered by committee members and railroad personnel.

A two-week arts and crafts show, themed "Calico and Burlap," sold over \$700 in wares for local artists.

A series of historically interesting articles were published in the local newspaper, the **Times Clarion**, and were researched and written by committee member Grace Pound, who was also instrumental in the publication of **Pioneers and Yesteryears**, a history of the settlers and background of Wheatland County. Donations by the mayor and city council enabled many of the projects to be completed.

## WIBAUX COUNTY

Wibaux school students from the elementary through junior high grades presented special Bicentennial programs entitled "The Montana Trail," "What America Means to Me," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again," "The Boston Tea Party," and the "U.S. of A." The gymnasium was packed to capacity for these special performances.

The 9th of July weekend held many activities in store for the more than 1,200 residents and out-of-area guests and families who took part in the Homecoming and Reunion.

A very notable project and major undertaking was the publication of **Trails Along Beaver Creek**, a chronicle of Wibaux County. Topics in the book include geologic past, prehistoric Indians, Indian fighters, buffalo hunters, cattle companies, homesteaders, the development of towns, churches, businesses and is brought current with a unit on the coal resources of the area. In addition to the background history, the book contains nearly 200 family biographies, pictures, maps and a list of the original homesteaders who filed on claims in the county. The book was researched and written by Irene James Jones, chairperson of the Wibaux County Bicentennial Committee.

## YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Yellowstone, another of Montana's larger counties, was concerned that the majority of Bicentennial projects undertaken be of lasting value. Thousands of people, clubs, organizations and school children participated to make this historical event a most memorable one. Following is a sampling of the variety and scope of their accomplishments.



A statewide competition was held for Montana artists to design two murals for the Yellowstone County Courthouse. The musical "1776" was produced in Billings with a cast comprised of all Montana talent. This musical toured 38 separate locations in Montana and the smaller towns, who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to view a touring repertory company, were especially appreciative. The 4th floor of the county library was turned into a theater to provide youngsters with the opportunity to experience good American literature through the medium of theatre. The theatre also offered opportunity for youngsters to grow and develop their own areas of creativity. The theatre was enthusiastically received and attended by area residents. **The Old West of J.K. Ralston** film production on the life and early experiences of this noted artist was viewed in every state by a total audience of over 4 million. Landmarks, an ongoing organization started to accomplish various Bicentennial goals, incorporated and became a member of the Montana Federation of Women's Clubs. Their ongoing projects included the International Hostess program; the collection, editing and preservation of oral histories in Montana; the promotion of use of the American flag in proper fashion as well as preservation of patriotism and heritage; and the Business for Beauty program, upgrading the overall appearance of the business community.

A divider curtain was installed in the P.E. center at the Yellowstone Boys' Ranch; historic homes were preserved and marked; the Baker Battlefield was preserved; and Bicentennial exhibits were featured by the Heritage Center. Other activities included fashion shows; parades; banquets; contests; Boy Scout exposition; "paint-a-plug" program; Girl Scout programs; school pageants and plays; fall festival; potluck dinners; Bicentennial town meetings; restoration of the old chamber building; photography seminar; kiddies' parade; band concerts; old fashioned ice cream socials; leather craft and quilting classes; interdenominational services; Bicentennial radio programs sponsored by station KOYN; Indian crafts exhibit; needlework and art display; and much more.

Long after the Bicentennial is over, the people of this community will remember that they were the only stop in Montana for the American Freedom Train, a free festival featuring the Moscow Ballet, Helena Symphony, a melodrama, a children's theatre production and a large choral and musical presentation as well as one of the state's largest parades. However, when this work and enjoyment is just a memory, the flags from the 50 states in the Bicentennial Avenue of Flags, located at the fairgrounds and donated as memorials to various individuals and groups, will be reminders of the Bicentennial and will serve to recall the pride we have in our fellow workers, our community, and our country.





J.K. Ralston, famous western artist from Billings, was the subject of a short Montana Bicentennial Administration and Yellowstone Bicentennial Commission sponsored film entitled, "The Old West of J.K. Ralston."



# A Personal Review of the Bicentennial

by Harold G. "Hal" Stearns  
former MBA Director

The citizenry of Montana, by their enthusiastic participation in over 3,000 projects and activities, made the observance of the American Bicentennial an outstanding success.

This state of 700,000 people, undaunted by their lack of numbers, surpassed all but a handful of states in the number of Bicentennial events, a striking testimonial to the calibre of our populace.

When I began my task of directing the program in July 1973, one individual asked, "just what is this Bison Centennial deal you're working on?" My response was that as a native Montanan, no one was more interested than me in the preservation of that noble beast the buffalo, but Bicentennial had to do with celebrating the 200th anniversary of the creation of the United States of America.

Initially the Bicentennial was the responsibility of the Montana Historical Society, which for the year previous to 1973, utilized the initial federal funding for programs concerned with history. I was, to a degree, involved at this stage, being president of the Historical Society Board of Trustees.

When it became apparent that the Bicentennial operation would require the full-time supervision of an individual, I was asked by the Society if I would be interested in taking on the responsibilities of Director of the Bicentennial. Having sold my newspapers, I was available and accepted the task.

Dr. Merrill Burlingame and I attended a Bicentennial organizational meeting at Jackson, Wyoming in late May of 1973, to learn about the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission's planning, which was at that time very disorganized and floundering.

I assumed the post of Director July 1, and by Autumn the Governor had named an advisory committee, which met for the first time to consider the initial projects and advise the Director.

The Historical Society remained the agency in charge until July 1, 1974 when the Bicentennial Administration was created as a separate agency operating within the Department of Education.

We endeavored to emphasize we were interested in funding as many projects as we could which would be of lasting nature, rather than transitory.

Some unforeseen difficulties were encountered so we were unable to assist with matching monies a number of very desirable proposals. I feel, however, we succeeded in distributing funding as far as possible throughout Montana.

Hoped for revenues did not materialize in some areas, one being the disappointment of not receiving additional anticipated ARBA funding. The sale of our distinctive set of four medals was below expectations, but by and large our merchandising efforts were successful.

Also not bargained for initially were the complexities of administering both state and federal funding, advising applicants of the complexities involved for compliance with regulations and checking on disbursement of monies by local committees.

At the outset I did not envision the enormity of the tasks which were to confront us.



Candidly, as a history enthusiast and lover of my native state, I saw my job as being largely one of salesmanship of patriotism.

My role was mainly in this capacity, and I found it necessary to utilize my training, talents, and capabilities as a veteran newspaperman in telling the Bicentennial story to my fellow Montanans. My staff was concerned with the tasks involving detail work, review of projects, and distribution of the state and federal monies.

I spent many months and traveled countless miles all over the state to "Sell the Bicentennial" and make people aware of the matching funds which were available for Bicentennially-oriented projects. Committees for each of the counties were named by the county commissioners. Several workshops were held to orient these people throughout the state. In addition to the federal monies, we received \$20,000 for administration from the Legislature of 1974, and \$50,000 was voted for funding projects.

The 1975 Legislature provided an additional \$200,000 for projects and voted \$250,000 for a Montana Park, this amount to be supplemented by \$250,000 from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

The all-Montana project site was ordained to be chosen by a committee of seven eminent Montanans and ten communities submitted proposals. In September of 1975 the committee chose the proposal for the Missouri Headwaters State Park at Three Forks as most meritorious.

The Fish and Game Commission took charge and commenced work. Dedication of the park was held July 25, and completion of this outstanding project anticipated in 1977.

Having requested only \$20,000 from the legislature for administering the Bicentennial program in Montana, it became necessary to finance our work by embarking on a program of sales of commemorative items such as medals, pins, and other items.

The assistance of county committees in promoting these sales was invaluable to the administration, and we were grateful to all for their aid.

A tremendous amount of work was involved in reviewing the requests for matching funds from counties and organizations in the state, and regrettably our monies were insufficient to approve all. However, some 210 proposals, widely scattered over the state, received funding from the Bicentennial.

The progress of the Bicentennial Administration can be summed up as follows:

First year—1973—determining how Montana, which was in no way involved with the events of 1776, and being first visited by Lewis and Clark in 1805, could adapt itself to the Bicentennial. We felt that tying in with the Louisiana Purchase by President Thomas Jefferson (author of the Declaration of Independence) and telling the story of how the Treasure State progressed since then was the most effective device. Montanans were urged to focus on the distinctive heritage of the Land of Shining Mountains and Plains of Grandeur.

County commissioners were requested to name county Bicentennial committees and did so, with most of these committees functioning exceedingly well. The Director visited committees throughout Montana, acquainting them with the Bicentennial and funding potentials.

An advisory council was named to counsel the Director and in 1974 the Bicentennial Administration was created, and objectives were established.

During 1974 promotion of the Bicentennial was continued and workshops were held at different centrally located areas in the state. Newsletters and Bicentennial promotional material were produced. Proposals for projects began coming in in profusion, and from then on a vast amount of our time was devoted to reviewing these proposals, making applicants aware of the restrictions and requirements.

Development of the sales program of commemorative items was pursued.

By 1976 the year of culmination was upon us and the end result of over three years of planning was to be demonstrated.

The proliferation of celebratory events began with the New Year and scores of festive events were staged. A number had already been staged in 1975, among these the Freedom Train at Billings, and the Armed Forces Caravan at a number of Montana sites. The Wagon Train was also launched.

The State Festival in Helena in May preceded the almost innumerable festivities of the summer months—for instance, over the 4th of July weekend, over 100 celebrations were staged in various communities of Montana.

Major events were the dedication of the Lewis and Clark monument at Fort Benton and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Festivals, Wagon Train jaunts, rodeos, parades, class reunions, dedications of local parks and other Bicentennial projects, over the Independence Day period at other times during the balmy days, continuing on into the autumn windup.

To me the Bicentennial in Montana was replete with significant events, too many to recount. Greatest of all was the thrill of getting to meet so many wonderful people all over Montana who pitched in with might and main in becoming involved with the Bicentennial.

Highlights to me, among the myriad were:

That over 200 local projects were aided with Bicentennial funds throughout Montana.

The dedication of the Missouri River Headwaters State Park at Three Forks.

The many outstanding films of our heritage, such as the "Red Sunday" film about the Custer battle, which won top honors nationally.

The dedication of Bob Scriver's tremendous Lewis and Clark and Sacajawea statue at Fort Benton.

The Montana Historical Society's book, **Not in Precious Metals Alone.**

The magnificent Montana Bicentennial medal series.

The Yellowstone Journey fur-boat re-enactment down the Missouri.

The centennial of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

The statewide immunization program.

The statewide tour of "1776", sponsored by the Shriners of Montana.

The appearance of the Freedom Train in Billings in 1975.

The statewide Bicentennial Festival in Helena.

The 4th of July celebrations and parades staged in over 100 Montana communities.

The Crow Fair at Crow Agency and other Indian celebrations.

The Appaloosa Horse Ride following the Joseph trail and the monument dedication at Ryegate.

Restoration of St. Mary's church at Stevensville.

The innumerable fairs which celebrated the Bicentennial.

The Armed Forces Caravan.

The success of the Bicentennial in Montana is owed to the singular dedication and talents of the people of the Treasure State. We thank them for the honor of having the opportunity to encourage, assist and work with them.

To the legislature, Governor Judge, many state agencies, and the news media, we also extend our heartfelt thanks.

The observance of the Bicentennial afforded all citizens an opportunity to reflect upon the great heritage of our state and nation. We boast a remarkable past replete with



the deeds of rare and courageous people. Armed with their example we are able to not only cope with our present, but learn how to make an even better and greater future.

Thomas Paine wrote in 1774: "These are the times which try men's souls," and all through our 200 years as a nation we have been fortunate to have had people with the fortitude and vision to grapple with and overcome difficulties. As MacCauley so well put it, "A people who do not give heed to the accomplishments of their ancestors will leave little for their descendants to remember them by." This was the challenge of '76—that we arm ourselves for the future with an increased knowledge of our variegated past. America and Montana will be better because of the Bicentennial.

Thank you for the fulfillment of my dream to have been able to help serve my native state and nation.

To have served for over three years as Director of the Montana Bicentennial Administration has been a signal honor. I have learned what Walpole's "serendipity" means—the gift of finding precious, agreeable, unforeseen satisfactions undreamed of.

The people of the Treasure State have revealed themselves to be of a stature to match our towering mountains. Montanans of every walk of life, in hamlets, rural areas and our cities have combined their efforts toward commemorating the nation's 200th birthday on a truly massive scale, out-performing states with many times our population.

I have had the rare privilege of traversing this vast commonwealth from Alzada to Yaak and having the opportunity to meet unbelievably talented people. Montanans of enormous ability live everywhere. The poet wrote, "full many a rose is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness upon the desert air," but Montanans in the most obscure places possess a sense of individual importance and rare abilities, and are undaunted by any fell circumstances.

Truly they are proud to be Montanans, possessing pride of individuality in their own right. This has been graphically revealed by the extent of their involvement in the Bicentennial.

Why, when this wonderland was unknown at the time of events taking place in the original 13 colonies in 1776, were Montanans so responsive to the Bicentennial? Our answer is that we are inordinately proud of our heritage because many of us have a direct contact to our beginnings. There were signers of the Montana Constitution alive when I was a lad. I actually knew many pioneers. So do lots of the descendants of the Native Americans, stalwart prospectors, cowpunchers and homesteaders. Nobody in the East can boast such a person-to-person awareness of ancestors who made things happen. In addition to our being closely allied to our origins, we are evidencing an intense interest in preserving our environment and learning from the past.

The Montana Bicentennial Administration but pointed the way and the people responded. Thanks to an energetic staff of enthusiastic and dedicated young people we made the people of Montana understand the potential of the Bicentennial. From there on it was everybody doing their thing, and getting more enthusiastic every day.

The observance of the Bicentennial took place all over Montana, involving thousands of civic minded and patriotically inspired people of all walks of life.

It is hoped the events and activities of 1976 imbued in the citizens a sense of renewal in what it means to be an American.

The Bicentennial's goal was to forge a new commitment, a new spirit of '76, a spirit which symbolized the ideals of our Founding Fathers, and a spirit to inspire our countrymen in dedication to the advancement of human welfare.

HERITAGE '76 represented a call to review our history and to place it in perspective in 1976. All were urged to re-examine their origins and values and the real meaning of what it meant to be an American—to be proud of what our forebears did and encourage us, their descendants, to develop our nation.

The Bicentennial enabled us to study our past and to honor all those who made this nation a reality, a bastion of freedom in a troubled world. As a result, I am sure many Montanans learned to appreciate their state and local history.

The Bicentennial encouraged us to plan and stage activities to celebrate our glorious past and our unlimited future opportunities in a myriad of ways—celebrations, parades, community get-togethers, reunions and the like.

The Bicentennial was a challenge to all of us to engage in projects which would manifest our community pride and its hopes for the future. The state's communities responded nobly with a host of ideas which became projects certain to improve our present and future—parks, playgrounds, clinics and community centers were only a few of the innovative accomplishments of a lasting nature.

The Bicentennial afforded us a fortunate opportunity to assess ourselves with respect to our nation and learn how we can assist as individuals to carry on this nation into its Third Century.

We needed to realize the moral unity of our human experience and make it the basis of a patriotism for all the world.

The Declaration of Independence signified a common humanity, shared hopes, dynamic teamwork, and a common vision of the tasks before us; to achieve human dignity and all that makes for the good life together.

These perilous times demanded our study of the comprehensiveness of our missions as a people, but in the setting of value. Values are the visible, workable provinces for implementing a declaration.

The year of 1976 enabled us to emphasize the need for a commitment to a set of values so that this nation could endure.

The Bicentennial taught us all to become a veritable symphony, incorporating our different lifestyles, origins, moods and variety of tempos—with sharps and flats, harmonies and discords—but ultimately a unified symphony—a United States of America.

By being actively involved with the development of the Bicentennial, Montanans everywhere learned how to become personally important, finding fulfillment by working together for a common cause—community development.

Seneca put it well when he long ago wrote, "What good is there in knowing how to parcel out a piece of land if I know not how to share it with my brother?"

The Founding Fathers challenged us to ask what America will be because of me. What will the Tricentennial be as a result of my having passed this way?

During the Bicentennial observance we had the opportunity to participate in sharing the experience of being an American, understanding what Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes meant when he wrote, "that as life is action and passion, it is required that each of us should share the passion and action of his time of peril at not being judged not to have lived."





# The Montana Bicentennial Statewide Project Selection Commission

The Montana Bicentennial Statewide Project Selection Commission was created by House Bill 591 and signed into law by the Governor on April 16, 1975. The Commission was created to solicit and evaluate applications for \$250,000 appropriated by the 44th Legislative Assembly for the development and building of a single, permanent statewide project to commemorate the American Revolution Bicentennial.

The seven members of the Commission were appointed by the Governor.

The members were:

Earl Barlow, Browning (Chairperson)  
Harry Billings, Thompson Falls  
Marie MacDonald, Glendive  
Ashley Roberts, Helena  
Leonard Schulz, Dillon  
Stan Lynde, Red Lodge  
Earl Moritz, Lewistown

The Commission's term was to last either six months or until the task was completed, whichever came first.

The Montana Bicentennial Administration employed Anita Miller as Executive Director of the Commission.

Ten applications were received by the Commission:

1. Festival Center, sponsored by the Red Lodge Bicentennial Project Committee;
2. Bannack State Bicentennial Park, sponsored by the Beaverhead County Bicentennial Committee;
3. Continental Divide Park, sponsored by the Helena Chamber of Commerce;
4. Fort Connah Restoration Project, sponsored by the Fort Connah Restoration Society;
5. Headwaters Improvement Project, sponsored by the Gallatin County Bicentennial Committee;
6. Lewis & Clark Heritage Park, sponsored by the Lewis & Clark Heritage State Park Development Commission;
7. Milestown, sponsored by the Custer County Bicentennial Committee;
8. Montana Bicentennial Park, sponsored by the Deer Lodge County Bicentennial Committee;
9. Montana's Bicentennial Heritage, sponsored by the Fort Benton Community Improvement Association;
10. Yellowstone River Park, sponsored by the Board of Yellowstone County Commissioners and the City of Billings.

At its third meeting, the Commission screened out six of the ten proposals. Five had no assured match and were thus ineligible for the state's grant; five were rated based on the evaluation criteria. The lowest rated project was eliminated from the competition. Plans were made to visit the four finalist project sites: Headwaters Improvement Project, Lewis & Clark Heritage State Park, Montana's Bicentennial Heritage, and the Yellowstone River Park.

The Commission and its Director traveled by state plane to the four project sites. Upon return to Helena, members met to report on their findings.

Members rated the four proposals as follows:

Headwaters Improvement Project **686**

Montana's Bicentennial Heritage **640**

Lewis & Clark Heritage State Park **572**

Yellowstone River Park **501**

The Headwaters Improvement Project was unanimously selected as the award-winning proposal. Montana's Bicentennial Heritage was selected as runner-up.

The Headwaters Improvement Project proposed improvements to the Missouri River Headwaters State Park, including the construction of a Visitor's Center, a 20-unit campground, and a park entrance. The headwaters area itself is being restored to its more natural state by removing interior roads and power and telephone lines, by re-landscaping, and by building interpretative trails and picnic areas. The Recreation & Parks Division of the Department of Fish & Game will operate and maintain the 500-acre site as it is under state ownership. Projected cost of maintenance is \$7,500 to \$10,000 annually and will come from the Recreation & Parks Division's Operations Fund.



## BIMONT COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM

By late 1974, Bicentennial activities in the Old West Region (Montana, North and South Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska) were eliciting a great deal of interest from potential tourists from both inside and outside of the region. Travel bureaus and magazines, airlines, AAA, and even other countries were requesting information on the slate of activities planned. At the time, the Montana Bicentennial Administration (MBA) estimated that it had nearly 2,000 activities scheduled for celebration of America's Bicentennial in Montana. However, the information relative to these activities was largely in an irretrievable state. Adequate answers to all requests for information and a full presentation of the wide range of alternatives open to tourists obviously required a computerized calendar system similar to that of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration's BINET system.

After extensive investigation the MBA determined that adoption of the BINET system would not only be prohibitively costly, but that its program did not fit our needs. The Montana State Department of Administrations's System Development Bureau then took on the task of designing a calendar system which, through several cross-referencing reports, would provide more information. In June of 1975, Governor Thomas L. Judge presented a proposal for the development of a computerized events information reporting system (BIMONT) to the Old West Regional Commission.

A grant of \$30,327 was unanimously awarded by the Old West Regional Commission to the MBA to fund the design and implementation of the BIMONT proposal.

The system produced eight project/event (p/e) information reports. The first, and most important, was the Detailed Information Report, which offered all of the information on file for all p/e. The remaining seven reports were cross references into the first, including Reports by p/e Title, by County/City/Start Date (i.e. location), by Geographic Scope (of applicability or interest), by Subject, by Method of Presentation, by Theme (Heritage, Festival or Horizons), and by Start Date.

The BIMONT system was maintained on a daily basis by three Bicentennial Interns under the supervision of the BIMONT Coordinator. 2,831 activities were recorded on the system. The BIMONT Coordinator checked information input, output and system efficiency.

Monthly calendars of events were produced from the master printouts and sent to all Montana news media, Chambers of Commerce, and all State Bicentennial Commissions. A **Register of Activities** book was likewise sent to each of the above. Requests for information were answered on a daily basis by referring to the master reports.

Quarterly progress reports were sent to the Commission for the periods of October 15 to December 31, 1975, January 1 to March 31, 1976, April 1 to June 30, 1976, and July 1 to September 30, 1976.

The final report was submitted in December of 1976 as the MBA closed down its offices before the end of the calendar year.

The BIMONT system is being stored on magnetic tape by the State Department of Administration. The Final Report, which includes sample printout reports, a system description, and flowchart, explains the BIMONT system and its uses. The tape and report are available free to all relevant agencies and organizations in the Old West states in the event they desire to adopt the program.

Montana will certainly find the system useful in planning for the Statehood Centennial in 1989!

# NATIVE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT

Native Americans, the original Montanans, followed the great and seemingly endless herds of buffalo across our boundless plains more than 15,000 years ago. The white man's expansion into the great plains in search of gold, a new life or room to breathe led most assuredly to the near extinction of the buffalo as well as the great Indian cultures that once so proudly commanded the magnificent prairies.

To ask Montana's Indians to celebrate 200 years of American independence even while they are battling to preserve their own culture and way of life from extinction could have been viewed as tasteless, if not outright ludicrous. The MBA staff met with Native American groups and offered the commemoration of the Bicentennial as a means for white and Indian citizens of Montana to exchange cultural attributes and witness firsthand each other's contributions to the greatness of this country.

Native American applications for Bicentennial grant funding were given priority consideration and the "cash match" was waived in favor of "in-kind match" whenever necessary to ensure completion of the project.

The seven Indian Reservations in Montana as well as landless Indians participated in the Bicentennial celebration in their own distinct way. The Blackfeet Indians used the traditional pow wow to manifest their culture during the Bicentennial era. Starr School initiated a pow wow specifically for the Bicentennial in 1975 and 1976. Browning's contribution involved using a Bicentennial theme during the annual Indian celebrations. The Blackfeet Tipi project enabled some reservation youth to learn the ancient art of tipi making.

The Crows used the Centennial of the Battle of the Little Big Horn as the cornerstone of their Bicentennial observance. The historic battle was commemorated by Native Americans from across America in a religious service honoring all those involved in the conflict on both sides. The Crow Indians also held several pow wows, as well as featuring the Bicentennial theme during the Crow Bicentennial Days.

On the Flathead Reservation, pow wows were held in Dixon and Saint Ignatius.

The Fort Peck Reservation evidenced many different pow wows and celebrations including the Frazer-Red Bottom Celebration and the Fort Peck Tribal Celebration in Poplar. Project Understanding, the Fort Peck Tribal Tourist Development Project, the Multi-Tribal Community Communication Project, and the Assiniboine-Sioux Cultural Tourism Center were all developed as a result of the Bicentennial.

The Northern Cheyenne Buffalo Project highlighted the Bicentennial activities on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

The Rocky Boy Reservation held a pow wow in Box Elder, a rodeo and improvements to the gravesite of Stony Child, founder of the Reservation. The school at Rocky Boy, controlled and operated by the Tribe, is teaching its students the native Cree language in addition to English. Numerous Bicentennial-related projects were undertaken by this innovative and important educational facility on the Rocky Boy Reservation.

The rodeo-celebration grounds complex highlighted the Bicentennial commemoration on the Fort Belnap Reservation.







Printed by  
COLOR WORLD OF MONTANA, INC.  
201 E. Mendenhall, Bozeman, MT 59715